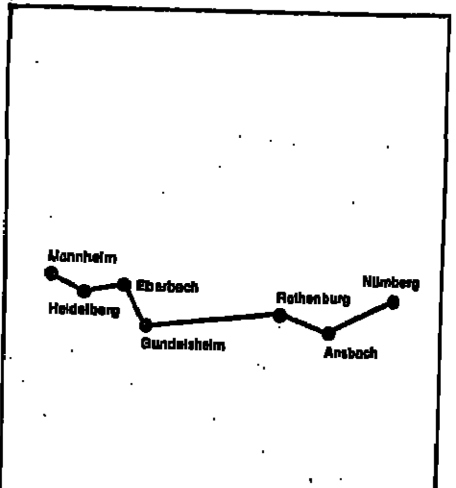
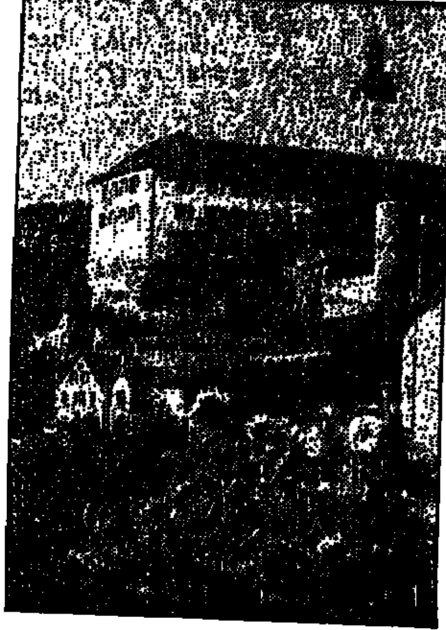
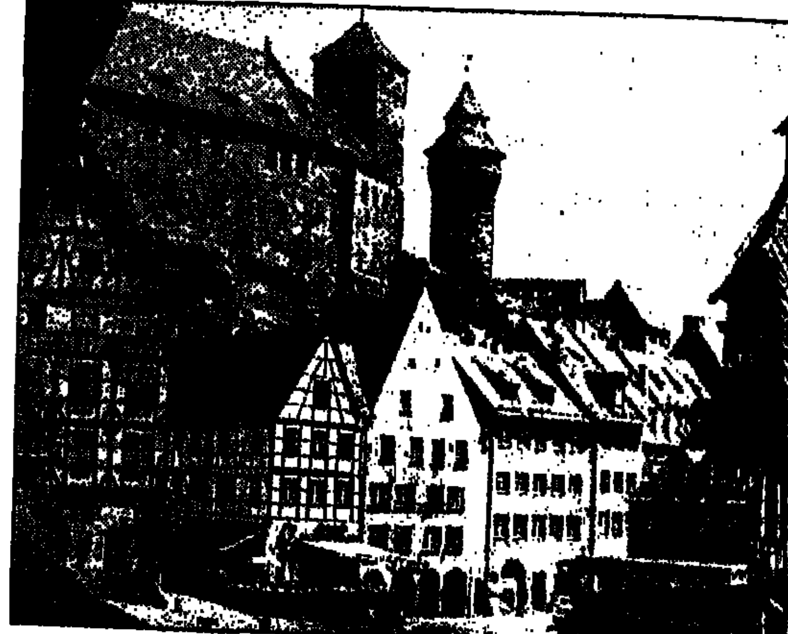
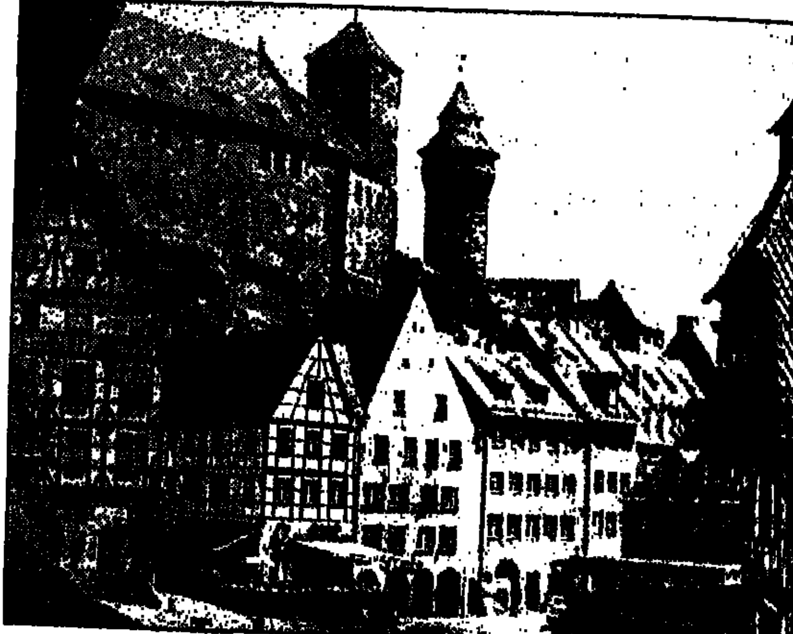






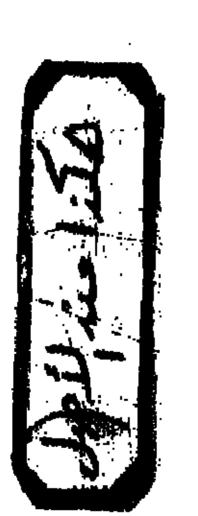












The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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mburg, 10 April 1983
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Economic issues bestride policy makers of Europe

urope's three most important countries face, in differing ways, crucial iods of government.

n the Federal Republic of Germany, w government is about to get to s with political and economic pros.

Britain, the government is in a pre-election phase; and in France, is the swing back towards a policy e of the centre.

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl s that his own instinct does not tell what path to take, he could well n a lot from what what has happenn other countries.

looks as if no post-war government urope has devoted its energy to fulg its task as resolutely and singleedly as has Margaret Thatcher's ervative government in Britain.

rs Thatcher, the first woman to bee head of government in the wesn world, took office facing a two-fie rate of inflation which was threatg to move on to 20 per cent.

itain had a debit balance of pays. This caused currency upsets.

nemployment was steadily making way towards two million and State s were high.

rs Thatcher set her priorities after

IN THIS ISSUE

fully studying what had happened evious governments.

o try and tackle unemployment ugh programmes increasing the ey supply only speeds up inflation, sens unemployment and doesn't the currency. This at least was her ssment.

o first she tried to come to terms inflation. Today it has been reducto one of the lowest rates in the ld.

North Sea oil helped her to improve current account and come to grips h state debt.



There was some hard bargaining with various ministers to cut back budget spending.

She put ministries on financial limits. She also managed to come to terms with the wave of wage rises, and she now has everything under control.

Unemployment is more than three million, even though the upward trend has slowed.

Now, the budget has carefully started to stimulate the economy. The voters have been given more spending money and will play a more active part in economic recovery.

If Mrs Thatcher re-elected she will be able to her full attention to unemployment, one of the toughest problems of our times.

President Mitterrand is in the process of changing his policy after two years of costly experiments.

While Mrs Thatcher did not pay homage to any ideology but only to cool and calculating house-wife logics, Mitterrand began by pushing through his socialist policies of redistribution, state intervention, nationalisation and putting the strain on the private sector.

The revaluation of the D-mark is one of the results, but it is the French who suffer most. They have been hit by the problems Mrs Thatcher came across three years ago. Mitterrand has now decided on an austerity programme which will match Mrs Thatcher's in toughness and consistency. Its intention is to regain control over the threat of economic and financial chaos. Mitterrand is not going to take on the problem of unemployment first. His measures will lead to an automatic increase in unemployment to begin with. This is not because he doesn't care about unemployment but because he has to get his house in order.

Kohl is still an unknown factor. His Finance Ministry has confirmed the troubles.

Nevertheless, Germany's economy is still in good shape and the expected economic upswing will give Kohl a good start.

The German government has not only spoken of an upswing but also of the strains that will be felt by certain sections of the population.

The examples of what has happened in our neighbouring countries show that unnecessary delay at the start can lead to greater difficulties later on, and perhaps to an election defeat because of softness at the beginning.

A look at what has been happening in Paris, London and Bonn would suggest that some tough years lie ahead.

Hans-Joachim Nimtz

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 26 March 1983)



Kohl's chancellorship confirmed with a handshake. Bonn president Karl Carstens welcomes Helmut Kohl to the presidential residence in Bonn, the Villa Hammerschmidt, after Kohl's election win. (Photo: Werek)

New thrust in search for a deal on missiles

President Reagan has suggested an "interim solution" to the Soviet Union over medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

However, Reagan regards such a solution as just one step on the way to an ultimate zero solution.

The creation of a balance in the number of Soviet and American medium-range missiles is to be followed by their complete removal.

There is an obvious reason why the USA allowed itself to be persuaded by Western Europe to introduce a new proposal into the negotiations.

Washington want to be able to shift the blame if the talks do in fact fail.

Some western government have made their agreement to the deployment of medium-range missiles on their territory dependent on evidence of the USA's true will to negotiate.

The unpopular "double decison" by Nato can only be put into practice if the populations of the countries affected are convinced of its necessity.

The Reagan Administration is suffering from a credibility gap, particularly over arms control.

The US Defence Ministry never ceases to maintain that the decision to deploy US missiles in Europe cannot be reversed, regardless of what happens in Geneva.

This would run contrary to President Reagan's alleged preference for the zero option.

Reagan's new proposal leaves no doubt about the fact that the "still-born" zero option really is now dead and buried.

The bargaining will start a new when the Geneva talks are resumed on 17 May.

Decisions will then have to be taken on how many missiles the Americans can deploy in Europe and how many missiles the Soviets must withdraw to bring about a true balance.

However, as the zero option is carried to its grave we should perhaps spare the odd tear or two.

For Europe it would have been the best solution for the Soviet Union to dismantle all its 550 odd medium-range missiles, for this would have made the Nato deployment plans superfluous.

Unfortunately, it was clear right from the start that Moscow would not accept such a deal.

The Soviet regard as their right to own missiles which are aimed at targets in Europe ever since they deployed 750 SS-4s and SS-5s at the start of the sixties.

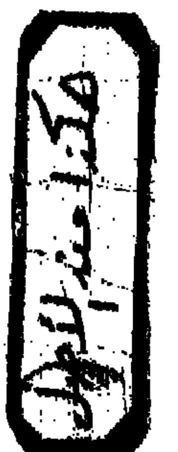
They regard this as a counterweight to the American bases in Europe and the French and British nuclear weapons.

Gradual replacement of the old missiles by the SS-20s is, in their opinion, merely an overdue act of modernisation.

The West was not particularly worried bout the SS-4s and SS-5s, as they are not suited for a surprise attack.

The fuelling process before take-off takes several hours and leaves behind a

Continued on page 2



■ WORLD AFFAIRS

EEC, Asean ministers talk in Bangkok

DIE WELT

Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea has been roundly condemned by foreign ministers of the EEC and the Asean states.

In an unusually clearly worded statement issued after a meeting in Bangkok, the ministers also gave recognition to the anti-government forces in Kampuchea, which include the communist Kmer Rouge.

The Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) comprises Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

The ministers criticised "the illegal military occupation of Kampuchea by Vietnamese forces" and "the constant refusal by Vietnam and the Soviet Union to heed international appeals and withdraw their respective troops from Kampuchea and Afghanistan."

Delegates underlined the need to fight against the growing trend towards protectionism and the need for reforms in the international economic order.

The conference showed that cooperation between the EEC nations and Asean has resulted in an effective international political force.

This cooperation was initiated by the Bonn Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in 1978, and Asean delegates made repeated references to his farsightedness.

Genscher is president of the EEC Council of Ministers and thus carries weight as a spokesman. In this role, he managed to persuade the French Foreign Minister, Claude Cheysson, to recognise the anti-government forces in Kampuchea as "an important step in the search for a comprehensive political solution" and to try and ensure that any plans to assist Vietnam did not aid its occupation of Kampuchea.

The heads of the various delegations also took the opportunity to hit Hanoi in one of the areas in which it is most sensitive, that of its role as self-proclaimed defender of humanitarian rights.

There is express regret that recent military attacks by Vietnamese artillery and armoured units had completely destroyed the Nong Chang border camp, which was set up by relief organisations.

The statement points out that the attack was a violation of humanitarian principles.

Both the Vietnamese and the Soviets will have realised by now that the EEC and Asean will stick to their resolutions on how to solve conflict in Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

Attempts by the Vietnamese to drive a wedge between the various Asean member states have failed.

All further efforts by Asean, says Malaysia's Foreign Minister Ghazali, will be aimed at getting Vietnam into the circle of the "International Kampuchea Conference".

This was set up two years ago in line with the UN resolutions by Asean, which insisted upon the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

In Ghazali's and Asean's eyes this is the only way. Ghazali explicitly warned the European conference participants not to be fooled by Hanoi's propaganda and tricks.

Other issues dealt with by the Bangkok conference included: the efforts by the Europeans to find a solution to the Middle East conflict; Soviet advances; and the possible shift of the Soviet SS-20 missiles to Siberia.

Important economic problems were discussed. For example, about how to maintain a liberal and open international system of trade and measures to make commodity agreements, effective.

They gave assurances that they would abide by the principles of the free market and do their utmost to strengthen inter-regional economic ties between Asean and the EEC.

Christel Pilz

(Die Welt, 28 March 1983)

Missiles deal

Continued from page 1

cloud of steam which would be immediately detected by satellite.

On the other hand the SS-20s just need a push of the button and — like the Pershing II developed by the Americans — they are first-strike weapons.

There is a definite lack of instinct about the apparent Soviet decision in 1977 to produce an unlimited amount of these weapons.

The voluntary stop at a level of 300 weapons announced by the then head of government Leonid Brezhnev also failed to materialise.

What are the next steps? The Soviet Union rejects both the zero option and the suggestion of parity.

It would like to see the French and British missiles included in negotiations.

In fact they threaten to station nuclear medium-range missiles in the immediate proximity to the USA if the Nato deployment goes through.

Arguing in terms of arms logics, such a step on the part of the Soviet Union might even be in the interests of the western governments since this would make it impossible to limit warfare just to Europe, meaning that the mechanism of deterrence remains intact on an international level.

Even conservative circles in Western Europe fear a separate "Euro-strategic balance".

This would represent a potential temptation to the USA to in fact play with the idea of a limited nuclear war, which would not touch the "stronghold USA".

Reagan's latest plans to develop an effective anti-missile defensive belt move in this direction.

The position of the US negotiator in Geneva had become intolerable. Sticking to the no-compromise position while at the same time seriously discussing alternatives in public has made things very difficult for Paul Nitze.

As Nitze confessed to a good friend: "Every time the Soviets come to the negotiating table, they know everything beforehand because they've read it in the paper."

Officially, the top diplomat has had to re-chew the same sentences for over a year now.

Stepping down from the zero option will liven up the talks in Geneva.

However, those advocating increased armament in Washington and Moscow will also become active.

Pierre Simonitsch

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 31 March 1983)

Genscher initiative on Asian cooperation brings results

Members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) hope that cooperation that with the EEC will bring them investment and know-how. They also hope that it will increase access to European markets for raw materials and food.

Foreign ministers of the five Asean nations (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) have met with EEC foreign ministers in Bangkok. It was the fourth such meeting.

This inter-regional cooperation owes much to the efforts of Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Results of this cooperation so far include:

- Since 1975, the volume of trade has risen from DM15bn to 40bn. With a share of 11.3 per cent of Asean foreign trade, the EEC is Asean's third largest trading partner, behind Japan (28.3 per cent) and the USA (18.6 per cent).
- The 1980 framework agreement on cooperation in the fields of trade, economic and development policies have led to the creation of cooperation and consultation mechanisms which function smoothly.

There is an annual meeting of a mixed cooperation committee.

A "business council" was set up, a programme for scientific and technological cooperation worked out and a large industrial conference prepared.

The political cooperation has been successful. Regular meetings of the countries' foreign ministers have paved the way.

Both communities have had particularly close contacts in the UN. They adopted a common stance on the Afghanistan and Kampuchea issues and on topics of North-South relations.

In joint statements they agreed in many economic and political matters.

Asean is still in an early stage of development. Its political and economic structure cannot be compared to that of the EEC. All Asean countries face huge social problems, which can only be solved nationally.

Most of them are exporters of raw materials and compete in many areas instead of coordinating export policies.

The volume of intra-community trade has just reached the 15 per cent mark.

Politically, there are still great differences of opinion, particularly over Indo-China, where views differ over assessments of the Chinese and Vietnamese positions.

It is therefore all the more surprising that the Asean diplomats have taken great steps to improve cooperation, particularly in foreign policy.

The key word here is "resilience". It corresponds to the pragmatic tradition of Asian diplomacy. Nothing is done on a coercive basis.

And yet there is always a firm will to give priority to community interests if the need arises.

Another difference to the EEC is that there is no fixed programme, only a basic functional framework.

Nevertheless, there is an evergrowing trend towards integration. Against the background of the crises in Vietnam and Kampuchea, there has been plenty of progress in political cooperation.

This has been backed up by a network of bilateral agreements on defence policy and mutual assistance commitment by four partner countries to help Thailand in case of a Vietna... tack.

This means that over the ... years Asean has gained in the ... and essence of its political and ... mic cooperation.

Ignoring the EEC this make... unique as a model for other po... gional groupings.

It has also turned it into on... most important factors in inter... politics.

In its own discreet way, it has ... a moderating influence on some ... more extreme attitudes among t... aligned countries and in other d... ing countries.

Asean is therefore an ideal ... for the EEC in the international ... cal arena.

What is more, the great sig... of the region as an internation... plier of tin, natural rubber, ... hardwoods, palm oil, copra, oil, ... gas, copper, rice and coffee wo... port moves towards enhanced ... tion.

The EEC states can only drea... achieving the growth rates rec... the Asean states over the past fe...

However, they too have now ... by the drop in the prices of ra... rials.

The fact that about a third of ... eign direct investments in de... countries were carried out in th... is a sign of the international co... in the political and economic ... of the area.

At the beginning the other ... of the EEC were not so keen o... cher's ideas about stepping up ... tion.

The large distance to this ... ties certain members had to th... vious colonies were the main ... for this.

However, the practical succes... certainly persuaded most of th... ters.

This is confirmed by the fa... there were seven foreign mi... three state secretaries and vice p... Wilhelm Haferkamp as the repr... ve of the EEC Commission at t... ference in Bangkok.

At the moment, there is no... scope for activities in econom... gress would only seem possible ... lopment policy.

In such a situation, it would ... useful to take up Genscher's sug... to take advantage of agreement... ternational issues to achieve ... coordination in the United Natio...

Wolf I...

(General-Anzeiger, 27 Ma...)

The German Tribu...

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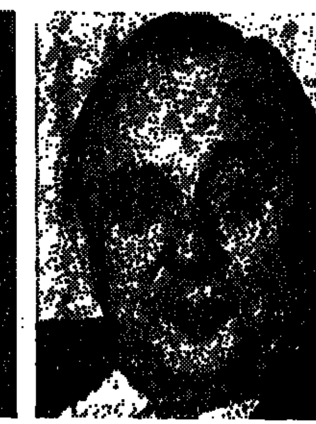
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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Kohl's Cabinet: the men to meet the challenge

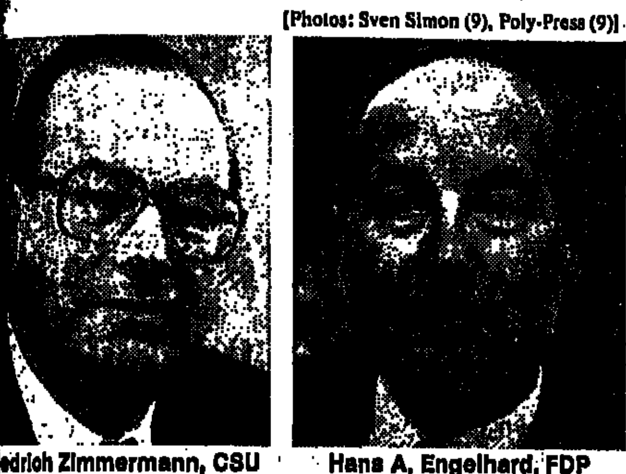
...ancellor Kohl's post-election cabinet has only ... changes. Rainer Barzel (CDU) has stepped ... to become Bundestag President and is replac... at Intra-German Affairs by Heinrich Winde... (CDU); and Josef Ertl (FDP) is replaced by ...az Kiechle (CSU) at Agriculture.

[Photos: Sven Simon (9), Poly-Press (9)]



Helmut Kohl, CDU
b. 3 March 1930
in Ludwigshafen
Chancellor

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FDP
b. 21 March 1927
in Reideburg/Saale
Foreign Affairs





...drich Zimmermann, CSU
b. 18 July 1925
in Munich
Interior

Hans A. Engelhard, FDP
b. 16 Sep. 1934
in Munich
Justice

Gerhard Stoltenberg, CDU
b. 29 Sep. 1928
in Kiel
Finance

Otto Lambsdorff, FDP
b. 20 Dec. 1926
in Aachen
Economic Affairs





Ignaz Kiechle, CSU
b. 23 February 1930
in Reinharts/Bavaria
Agriculture

Norbert Blüm, CDU
b. 21 July 1935
in Rüsselsheim
Labour

Manfred Wörner, CDU
b. 24 Sep. 1934
in Stuttgart
Defence

Werner Dollinger, CSU
b. 10 Oct. 1916
in Neustadt/Bavaria
Transport





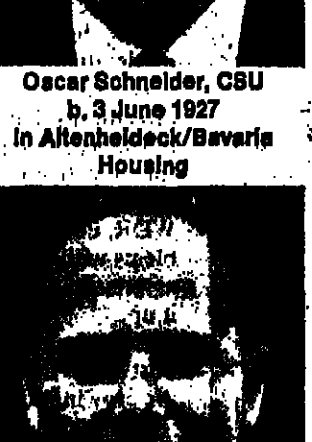
...Schwarz-Schilling, CDU
b. 19 Nov. 1930
in Innsbruck
...s & Telecommunications

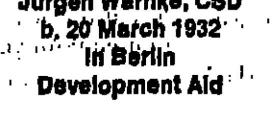
Heinz Riesenhuber, CDU
b. 1 Dec. 1935
in Frankfurt
Research

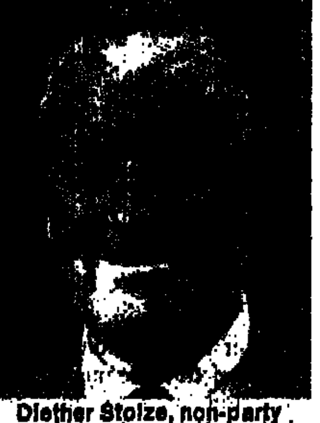
Oscar Schneider, CSU
b. 3 June 1927
in Altenheideck/Bavaria
Housing

Heinrich Windelen, CDU
b. 25 June 1921
in Bolkenhain/Silesia
Intra-German Affairs









Heinrich Geissler, CDU
b. 3 March 1930
in Oberndorf/Neckar
Family Affairs/Health

Dorothee Wilms, CDU
b. 11 Oct. 1929
in Grevenbroich
Education

Jürgen Warnke, CSU
b. 20 March 1932
in Berlin
Development Aid

Diether Stolze, non-party
b. 5 Feb. 1929
in Starnberg
Government Spokesman

New Bundestag gets down to business

The Bundestag now has a fifth parliamentary group, the Greens.

The new coalition has such a healthy majority that even a short-term alliance between the SPD and the Greens on specific issues need not worry it.

The government should use this majority to implement its programmes to combat unemployment, consolidate the budget and put the overdrawn social security funds back on an even keel.

Uncertainties that plagued the nation in the time between last autumn's change of government and the new Bundestag elections were largely due to the way in which the elections were brought about and the initial difficulties that confronted the new Bonn upset.

But all this is over now — and that includes the coalition negotiations and the Franz Josef Strauss interlude.

Though there are many details still to be hammered out by the coalition partners CDU, CSU and FDP, the general policy line stands and there should be no room for petty bickering.

The SPD is now called upon to be a constructive opposition. The main issues have already been laid down: the missiles, the pensions and legal action.

The Social Democrats are now departing even further from their old position on the two-track Nato decision. They now seek affirmation from opponents of the decision.

The SPD is clearly divided on this and its top politicians constantly have to correct each other on the crucial question: to stay in the Atlantic Alliance or opt out.

This clearly demonstrates what Helmut Schmidt meant when he refused to stand for the chancellorship not only for health reasons.

The SPD now pins its hopes on the conservatives reneging on their campaign promises about social security.

If the coalition government again postponed raising the pensions it would provide the Social Democrats with welcome ammunition.

The opposition intends to contest the joint CDU/CSU parliamentary group status in the Karlsruhe Constitutional Court.

Thus the bad habit of resorting to the Constitutional Court as a political instrument continues in the new Bundestag.

The issue is both pitiful and petty as a start for opposition work.

Another immaterial and petty question was the seating of the Greens in the Bundestag. The traditional political geography of left, centre, right etc. has been questionable from the very beginning.

As it now worked out, the Greens are seated in the centre, where they certainly do not belong.

What matters now is to treat the Greens in the Bundestag with equanimity. Our parliamentary democracy is strong enough to cope even with a group that understands itself as an anti-party.

And should the Greens attack the democratic system — be it by words or deads — it will be a matter to be dealt with by the judiciary.

The more likely outcome is that the newcomers will henceforth occupy themselves only with themselves.

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 29 March 1983)

■ NEWSMAKERS

Helmut Schmidt gets top newspaper editorial post



Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt... announcement caused loud silence. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has been appointed a senior consulting editor at the highly regarded liberal weekly, *Die Zeit*.

The appointment was greeted with howls of protest by journalists, many of whom saw it as jeopardising the paper's independence.

Schmidt, whose days as Federal Chancellor ended last October when his Social Democrat government lost its Free Democrat coalition partner, takes over in May. He will share the position with Countess Marion Dönhoff.

Die Zeit's publisher, Gerd Bucerius, announced the appointment at a general editorial conference in March. It was met with an amazed silence. After recovering from the initial shock, one journalist asked whether it was an April Fool's joke (the next edition of *Die Zeit* was due out on 1 April).

This was followed by a flurry of protests. Many voiced concern over the independence of the paper with a party politician of Schmidt's calibre in the top echelon.

Bucerius, who admits to being close to the CDU and who had frequently expressed himself in favour of the change of government in Bonn, defended his decision.

He argued that, as an elder statesman held in high esteem world-wide, Schmidt stood above party politics.

He did, however, concede that he had given a lot of thought to how the appointment would affect the paper's image. In the end, he decided that Schmidt transcended the SPD.

The announcement underlines the fact that, in addressing the Social Democratic Bundestag group last July, Schmidt said: "I would have liked to have done more to fight unemployment. But to do so I would have had to pare down social benefits; and this is being thwarted by you."

At one point Schmidt had also made it clear that his decision not to stand as SPD chancellorship candidate in the last election was only partly due to health considerations. He said he had come to realise that "many of my fellow party members have shelved the old controversies for the time being only."

In his announcement, Bucerius said that those who had read his paper carefully lately could not have failed to notice that a recent issue carried a six-page article by Helmut Schmidt entitled "The World Economy is Our Destiny".

The article, simultaneously published in London, Paris, Milan and Tokyo, presented Schmidt's concept for the prevention of a "world-wide and catastrophic depression."

Schmidt's article caused a considerable sensation because it was the first time since leaving Bonn that he had aired his views in the press.

Schmidt, a native of Hamburg, has had close ties with *Die Zeit* for years. He appointed that paper's political editor, Kurt Becker, as his government spokesman. Becker is now back in his old job.

Schmidt's acceptance reached Bucerius rather suddenly — from the United States, where he was on a lecture tour.

It is not yet known exactly what Schmidt's function will be.

But Bucerius hopes that he will use *Die Zeit* as a forum for his views.

Thomas Wolgast

(Mannheimer Morgen, 28 March 1983)

Peter Scholl-Latour... glob[...] (Photo: Süddeu[...])

'Snail's pace' journalism anno[...] television correspondent

The career of Peter Scholl-Latour, 59, the Paris correspondent of ZDF, one of Germany's top major TV networks, reads like a tale of globe-trotting adventure.

As a young French Foreign Legion paratrooper, he saw action in Indochina just after World War II.

After his discharge he studied political science and literature in Paris, earned himself a doctorate and then studied Arabic in Beirut.

His journalistic career began in 1948 at the prestigious French daily *Le Monde* with an article on the Soviet-occupied zone of Germany.

Ever since, there has been almost no conflict area without Scholl-Latour on the spot. He has reported from Indochina, North Africa, the Congo (during the independence struggles of th[...] and again from Vietnam during [...] war there.

In 1963, he became the Pa[...] spondent of ARD (the other c[...] network) though with many si[...] the far-flung corners of the wo[...]

In 1969, he was appointed [...] tor of WDR, a Cologne-base[...] within the network. But after [...] year on the job he announced [...] had no intention of holding [...] until retirement.

He left WDR to become [...] ing correspondent with seat [...] furt. The switch from one ne[...] another caused much controv[...] time and, as Scholl-Latour [...] WDR Director General Klaus [...] marck was "not amused."

Nor were a number of [...] groups at the station. They ob[...] the "undue haste" with which [...] tiations were conducted. Th[...] union magazine *Welt der Arbeit* criticised the fact that top TV p[...] ties could "switch allegiances [...] to supply and demand without [...] ing standards of conduct that [...] ployees take for granted."

What criteria other than su[...] demand are there, said Peter Sc[...] tour, who had meanwhile joi[...] league of star journalists.

As his fellow newsmen see [...] credit to Scholl-Latour that he [...] not put up with a desk job [...] he hammered out a contract w[...] that enabled him to pick his [...] signments anywhere in the wo[...] decide which subjects he wanted [...] with. The network and its view[...] fited from this.

But even the well-paid co[...] dent's post he now holds in P[...] not prevented this "essentially [...] man" (as he describes himself) [...] ticising his own network for the [...] pace of its work and its many [...] programmes that are deadly [...] spontaneous reporting."

Few other people would hav[...] tell the powerful media bosses [...] told them: "Events the new[...] have not yet dealt with are ig[...] television."

Since Scholl-Latour is first a[...] most a journalist and has no p[...]

Continued on page 5

Werner Höfer, whose panel programme on current affairs with journalists from all parts of the world has been a regular Sunday radio and TV fixture for the past 30 years (the longest in Germany), has turned 70.

His *Internationaler Frühschoppen*, usually attended by six journalists from five countries, has turned Höfer the moderator into a national institution.

He himself is rather at a loss to explain the popularity of his discussion programme, originally planned for radio only.

The radio-only version of the *Frühschoppen* began in mid-1953 and it was not until 18 months later that it was taken over by television as well.

Höfer, essentially a radio man who later became TV programme director in Cologne, says that the interest in politics alone can hardly be taken as the only explanation for the high tune-in quota.

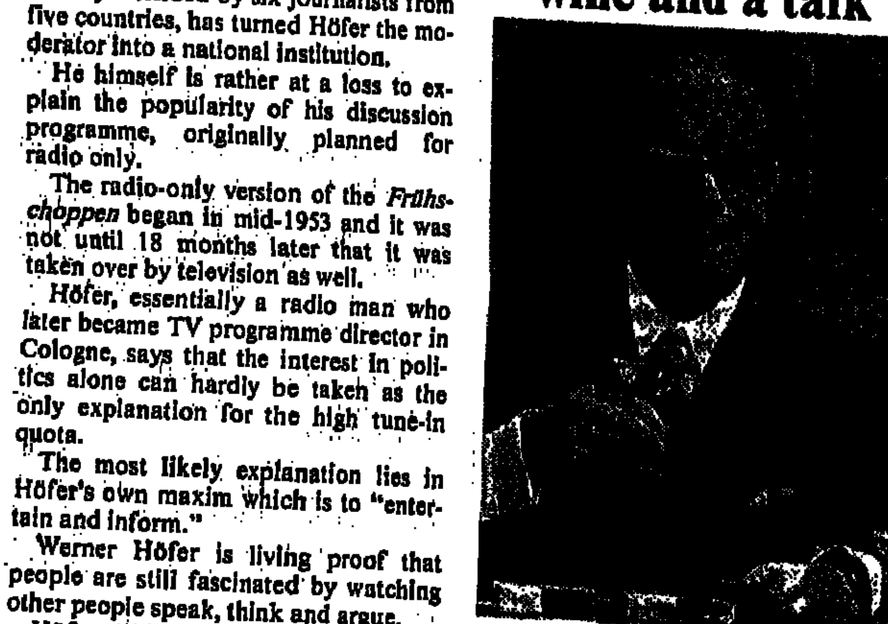
The most likely explanation lies in Höfer's own maxim which is to "entertain and inform."

Werner Höfer is living proof that people are still fascinated by watching other people speak, think and argue.

Höfer: "The listener sees himself as the seventh member of the panel."

Höfer, a wine lover (hence the name *Frühschoppen*, meaning a midday glass of wine with which the panel is regaled), began his journalistic career at a Cologne daily after studying philosophy and history.

Höfer's Sunday: a glass of wine and a talk





Werner Höfer... popular discussion programme. (Photo: Sven Simon)

After a brief interlude in Berlin, he returned to Cologne in 1946 when he was appointed to the current affairs desk of WDR, the Cologne broadcasting station.

Between 1961 and 1964 he worked for the illustrated magazine *Neue Illustrierte* while continuing to moderate his *Frühschoppen*.

He later undertook the development of WDR's 3rd TV channel.

From 1972 until 1977, when he resigned, he was programme director for the station's 1st and 3rd channels.

Höfer regards his unsuccessful bid to become the director-general of WDR as a stroke of luck (he was turned down on grounds of age).

Meanwhile, the retired broadcasting man keeps busy writing articles and books, lecturing and — naturally — moderating his *Frühschoppen*.

He describes his work as programme director as having been frustrated by red tape, saying that this is not the job for a creative journalist.

Had he become director-general of WDR, he could well have run into problems with his panel programme, but he asserts that he would never have given it up.

Even before leaving his permanent post at WDR he frequently criticised the growing red tape of the station.

Today, he expresses concern about the trend towards ever more perfection which "stifles journalistic creativity."

Werner Höfer, whose favourite vacation place is the island of Sylt — although his programme prevents him from vacationing in one long stretch — has also made a considerable name for himself through his books.

dpa

(General Anzeiger Bonn, 16 March 1983)

■ DEFENCE

Joint chiefs of staff get a new head

General Wolfgang Altenburg has taken over as chairman of the joint [...]iefs of staff *(Generalinspekteur)*.

He takes over from the retiring Gene[...] Jürgen Brandt in a change that [...]rks a new era: Altenburg is the first [...] of the Bundeswehr not to have [...]ved in Hitler's forces.

General Altenburg was born in Wes[...] Prussia in 1928. He was a navy flak [...]per on the island of Helgoland to[...]rds the end of the war.

After the war, he was "fascinated", [...] says, with the Nuremberg war crime [...]als.

In 1956, having completed his train[...] in the hotel business, he asked him[...]lf whether his devout Protestantism [...]as compatible with becoming a sol[...]er.

"Once this young nation comes of [...]e as a democracy," he argued to him[...]lf, "the very democratic processes will [...]nsure that the armed forces can never [...]gain be used as an instrument to su[...]pend the Constitution.

"If I find that this is not the case, I [...]n simply resign," he told himself. He [...]ll believes this.

In 1956, when he joined the Bundes[...]hr, he did not dream that he would [...] the commanding general of the 3rd [...]rmy Corps in Koblenz by the time he [...]as 52, nor did he expect to become the [...]op *military* adviser to the Bonn govern[...]ent.

As early as his seventh year in the [...]undeswehr he was singled out for ge[...]ral staff training. This was followed [...] tours as general staff officer in an [...]moured division in northern Germany [...]here the general still has a second [...]me on the shores of the Baltic.

When he was out in charge of an [...]illery battalion, he had to come to [...]ips with the use of nuclear grenades [...] a type of weapon he also had to deal [...]th while an adviser at the Defence [...]inistry and a general staff officer at [...]to headquarters.

The horror vision of a Germany de[...]stated by nuclear weapons has been [...]th him ever since.

General Altenburg, who constantly [...]nders the role of the armed forces in [...]erall policy, warns against the mis[...]ception of nuclear weapons as a sort [...] "special type of artillery." He also [...]rns against misunderstanding this [...]pe of weapon as a means of making [...] for deficiencies in the conventional [...]ctor.

He calls for an across-the-board de[...]rrent ranging from infantry to nuclear [...]apons but sees this is an instrument [...] be used by politicians to prevent war [...]fore the holocaust.

General Altenburg, who has made a [...]me for himself as both a military [...]litician and a leader of men, favours [...]strengthening of the nation's conven[...]onal defences. But this does not mean [...]at he wants to still more tanks and [...]ain the defence budget still further.

It is within his province to set priori[...]s when it comes to Bundeswehr [...]uipment. Yet he thinks far beyond [...]at.

Consideration in drafting the military [...]udget must not only be given to what the other Nato partners contribute to the common defence force but also to the fact that outward security can become pointless when internal security poses a threat at home — perhaps as a result of cutbacks in the social sector.



General Altenburg... liking for the family life. (Photo: Werek)

General Altenburg therefore wants to be free to put traditional ideas into question and seek new avenues. As he puts it, structures and concepts must be dynamic and open to development.

He is an avid gatherer of ideas and enjoys debates, especially with those who do not agree with him.

Even though it might hamper his everyday work, he would rather deal with a multitude of dissenting ideas than have an idea foisted on him.

Though non-partisan, he is rather close to social democratic ideas.

One thing he endorses wholeheartedly is the Bundeswehr concept of *Innere Führung* whereby the soldier is a citizen in uniform with full civic rights and motivated from within.

In his view, soldiers must not only deplore shortcomings but take an active part in eliminating them.

Much of General Altenburg's spare time is devoted to literature, especially American authors. In his youth, he once translated a work by Truman Capote into German.

But by far his favourite pastime is to be with his family. He has three children and three grandchildren.

A. Szandar

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 March 1983)

Fears over civilian career prospects for demobbed officers

The armed forces are worried about the civilian career prospects of officer graduates from the Bundeswehr universities who are due out next year.

The soldiers, all members of the regular army, will be over 30. Their studies were completed years ago.

This was one of the problems outlined in the annual report to the Bundestag of the Bundeswehr ombudsman, Karl Wilhelm Berkhan.

His report dealt with the issue of unemployment from several angles, including whether the forces could do more to help reduce the dole queues.

Berkhan quoted one infantry company where 41 of the 188 recruits had been unemployed before being called up.

There were fears among some of the others that they might not be able to go back to their old jobs later.

But there were limits to what the armed forces could do, according to Berkhan. It was already doing a great deal: besides conscripts, it provided employment for people prepared to become regular soldiers and also for civilians.

The Bundeswehr was the country's largest employer and it also helped fill industrial order books.

The report said that despite the increased importance of job security (offered by the forces) because of the economic recession, there was a lot of dissatisfaction in the services.

Among the most important were promotion bottlenecks, especially among specialists and officers who had risen through the ranks.

About 80 per cent of first lieutenants could not be promoted. Some had been promised a rise in rank to captain years before.

Berkhan outlined problem affecting graduate officers: their military training was too short and, as a result, they felt insecure facing the men.

"They tend to cover up for this insecurity by rigidly sticking to army regulations," he says.

In any event, it appears that military and academic training has not yet been properly coordinated. This has led to repeated criticism of academic training for soldiers.

There were also problems about NCO training, though the situation had improved since the training period was extended from 12 to 15 months.

A special type of problem came from the conscientious objectors.

Some opposed everything to the point where neither cajoling nor direct orders could achieve anything. Confinement to barracks or imprisonment was useless.

What was a commanding officer to do with a soldier who: constantly went AWOL and had to be picked up by the military police; who refused to wear uniform; and who repeatedly was sentenced for desertion?

Says the ombudsman: "Commanding officers are unable to resolve such conflicts — if for no other reason because they have other work to do."

It was therefore up to the Defence Ministry to come up with a solution that would not violate the Constitution.

Helmut Berndt

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 18 March 1983)

Karl Wilhelm Berkhan... limit to how much Bundeswehr could do for employment. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Continued from page 4

party affiliation, his opinions are entirely his own.

As far back as 1975, he held that Europe needed a nuclear force of its own and in 1981 he said that Mitterrand's description of de Gaulle's presidency as a permanent coup d'etat fitted the present president like a glove.

In 1980, when Ronald Reagan assumed the US presidency, Scholl-Latour did not join in the general chorus of apprehension over Reagan's striving for nuclear supremacy.

"The fact that Reagan is going to be tough doesn't worry me. Western policy needs toughness," he said.

It surprised no-one that he joined a group of Afghan rebels; nor did it come as a surprise when, in 1973, he was captured by the Vietcong and got away unscathed.

Peter Scholl-Latour has both German and a French passport. He has excellent contacts with top politicians in France. His keen interest in everything concerning France is therefore not surprising.

Along with Alfred Grosser, Scholl-Latour is the most important journalistic and political mediator between Germany and France. German television has barely a handful of people of this calibre.

Friedrich Thelen

(Die Welt, 25 March 1983)

Starfighter pilot training programme comes to an end

The Bundeswehr Starfighter training programme at America's largest air force base in Luke, Arizona, has ended.

Since 1964, 1,868 German military pilots have been trained at the base.

The Starfighter is being phased out in Germany.

The trainees, of whom only 46 failed to pass, put in a total of 270,000 Starfighter flying hours. The per man training cost was about DM2m.

The Starfighter was introduced into the Bundeswehr by the then Defence Minister Franz Josef Strauss in the early 1960s.

Against strong opposition, Strauss prevailed and purchased 915 of these aircraft.

Despite the legendary crashes, involving 256 planes and the loss of 108 lives, the plane's safety record is better than its reputation.

Germany's air force still has 428 Starfighters with nuclear capability.

Others have been overhauled and sold cheaply to other Nato partners such as Turkey.

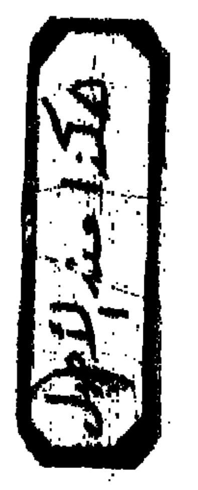
The Starfighters will probably be completely phased out by 1988 when they will be replaced by the twin-jet Tornado.

Air force Major-General Hartmut Gülzow nevertheless stresses the Starfighter's fighting potential.

It would remain a weapons system to be reckoned with until it was pulled out of service.

Friedrich Kuhn/dpa

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 16 March 1983)



FINANCE

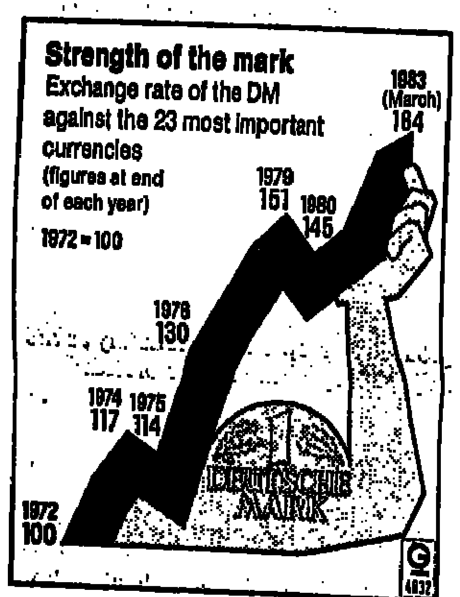
Currency realignment does not usher in plain sailing

European currencies have been realigned after a round of bargaining. The German mark has risen by 5.5 per cent against the other European Monetary System currencies and the French franc has dropped 2.5 per cent.

All EEC members except Britain and Greece are in the EMS. The realignment came in the nick of time to prevent France from pulling out of EMS, as it had threatened to do.

But the next crisis is just round the corner. Business in Germany is not happy about the change. It will make it harder to sell exports. And the devalued franc makes the situation still worse: France is Germany's biggest trading partner. German goods there become more expensive.

But even German exporters realised that the old French franc-deutschemark exchange rate had become untenable. The difference in the inflation rates of the two countries had simply become too large.



Given firm exchange rates, such a situation boosts exports from a low inflation to a high inflation country.

And in fact, Germany's exports to France last year rose at twice the rate of France's exports to Germany.

In 1982, Germany had a record DM17.3bn trade surplus with France, up DM5.5bn or 50 per cent against the previous year.

This could only spell trouble for a deficit country like France, which has been moving deeper and deeper into the red in terms of foreign trade since President Mitterrand came to power.

France's growing foreign trade and current account deficit would have been reason enough to devalue the franc.

But the French turned the tables on Germany, refusing to devalue too much because a devaluation could have been interpreted as a sign of poor economic policy.

The franc had already been devalued twice under Mitterrand (in October 1981 and June 1982). A third was therefore considered disastrous in terms of prestige.

France's Finance Minister Jacques Delors seemed set to become the new prime minister, so prestige was of paramount importance to him. This also explains his image-building needs and his sharp attacks on his German counterpart, Gerhard Stoltenberg.

But it was unfair to blame Germany for the foreign exchange turbulences of the past few months.

EMS was intended to streamline inflation rates within the system and thus make for monetary stability. But none of the EMS members have reached the stability target, though Germany came very close to it — hardly a reason to criticise it.

Delors' success in the exchange rate poker, when he obtained a rather high upward revaluation of the deutschemark, could backfire by making the German currency even harder.

This will apply particularly if, in the current rounds of collective bargaining, labour moderates its pay claims because of the revaluation.

This would enable industry to make up for the ground lost by the realignment and keep employment at the present level.

In any event, had there been no realignment, the influx of foreign exchange into the Bundesbank could have reached dangerous proportions. The added money supply would have endangered monetary stability; but this has now been averted.

The change of deutschemark-franc parity is quite considerable. And since the Dutch guilder, the Danish krone and the Belgian franc have also been revalued upward slightly, France should now be able to improve its foreign trade position — at least within the EEC.

But it remains to be seen whether this will materialise.

Paris is redrafting its economic policy. If it sticks to its Keynesian theories and tries to create additional demand by even more deficit spending, the next realignment will not be far off. It would be the eighth realignment since the EMS came into being in March 1979.

Parity changes within the EMS are expressly provided for in the original agreement. But the ultimate aim was to stabilise the exchange rates within the system.

The founding fathers of the EMS, especially the Federal Republic of Germany, felt that stable exchange rates would put pressure on countries with high inflation rates to stabilise the buying power of their money.

Since the members of the system have to maintain their exchange rates within a relatively narrow range, their governments are forced to take anti-inflationary action.

The hope that the EMS would help fight inflation has been dashed. Today's Community is as far from achieving this stabilisation aim as it was four years ago.

Though inflation rates in most Community nations were down last year, they are nevertheless still appallingly high and differ widely from country to country. There are also other indicators to show that the Community has not come closer to the stabilisation aim — not even at snail's pace.

The fact that some countries are trying to use market instruments to bring their prices under control, put their budgets in order and achieve a sound current account balance while others try to create jobs through deficit spending can only cause disarray on foreign exchange markets.

And the fact that some EMS members are happy to make use of the currency support system of the EMS while at the same time hampering the free international flow of money is not exactly in keeping with the spirit of the EMS.

A system of relatively stable exchange rates has its advantages. But it can only function if tension within the system is kept at bay.

There are, however, indications that tensions will grow if France does not switch to a more market oriented economic policy.

The fact that the system worked without much friction for a while was largely due to the temporary weakness of the deutschemark some time ago, which put the German currency in the same boat with other weak currencies.

The main reason for this deutschemark weakness was the current account deficit at the time.

But the deficit has meanwhile turned into a surplus, which has strengthened the deutschemark.

Unless the EMS partners manage to keep pace with Germany, frictions inside the system will increase.

If new realignments are preceded by recriminations similar to those in Brussels, it could lead to destructive animosities.

If this were to happen, it would be better to abolish the EMS altogether and revert to floating. This would also end the dispute over what is the right parity. Free rates are both problem solvers and peacemakers.

In any event, we should rid ourselves of the illusion that Europe can be built through institutions.

Neither the Coal and Steel Community nor the Common Agricultural Market has been a truly integrating factor; and the same applies to the EMS.

Background the EMS

The European Monetary S[...] (EMS) was created by the heads of government in 1973 [...] ing a proposal by Bonn and aiming at creating a stable c[...] zone in Europe.

The EMS succeeded the c[...] snake established in April 1972.

European Monetary System [...] tres around the ECU (Europe[...] rency unit) which serves as a re[...] ce point for the fixing of exc[...] rates. The ECU is an indicator [...] change rate fluctuations and [...] as an accounting unit for claims [...] obligations under the EMS. It i[...] a legal tender and a reserve [...] ment used among EC central b[...]

Currencies in the EMS have [...] parities with relatively small m[...] of fluctuation (2.25 per cent in [...] direction except for the weak I[...] lira which has a margin of 6 pe[...] up or down).

While EMS has created rel[...] firm exchange rates within th[...] tem, its currencies are allow[...] float against non-member curr[...] especially the US dollar.

If an EMS currency, say the [...] chemark or the French franc, d[...] from its set exchange rate, the [...] tral banks concerned must int[...] on foreign exchange markets.

The parities of the EMS c[...] cies have been realigned six ti[...] far.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 21 Marc[...])

Since the political figures [...] cannot reach a consensus, it [...] pure coincidence if the system f[...] ed.

But it is no coincidence that th[...] is short of a decisive building [...] The Council of Economic Advi[...] the Bonn government (the Fiv[...] Men) pointed this out at the ve[...] ginning.

As they saw it, the ultimate aim [...] people who drafted the EMS in a[...] bring about firm though adjusta[...] change rates was to arrive at a mo[...] union in the long run.

The Five Wise Men argued th[...] objective could only be achieve[...] fixing of exchange rates went ha[...] hand with a coordinated money [...] policy and sanctions in cases of [...] tion.

They money supply provision [...] missing block in the system. But [...] nobody has shown any inclina[...] insert the missing block.

What the members of the [...] want is relatively stable exchang[...] while pursuing their own eco[...] policies at will.

Using its aim of creating a zo[...] monetary stability in Europe as a [...] tick, the EMS has achieved rather [...] the Bundesbank said as far back [...] year ago.

In its report, the Bundesbank [...] that the improved exchange rate s[...] ty within the EMS had to be sup[...] by monetary stability at home if th[...] tem is to result in lasting advanta[...] its members.

"Unless this happens, the s[...] could fall apart," the report said [...] Brussels meeting proved the Bu[...] bank right.

Paul Belling[...]
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ u[...] 25 Marc[...])

INDUSTRY

Over 4,000 to be laid off at state-owned shipyard

[M]ore than 4,000 men are to be laid off at a state-owned ship-buil[...] Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW).

[...]e announcement was made the day [...] the *Land* election in Schleswig-[...]tein and a week after the general [...]ion.

[...]e company has shipyards in Ham[...] and Kiel, but most of the workers [...]lved would be in Hamburg. They [...]ld comprise about a third of the [...]force.

[A]ccording to the works council, the [...]pany's problems are the result of [...]s of mismanagement.

[...]e cutback plan provides for an [...]tual complete shutdown of the [...]mburg yard, leaving Kiel as the sole [...]ve yard.

[M]eanwhile, there is a war of mutual [...]isations in progress between Ham[...]g and Kiel and Hamburg and Bonn [...] between the management under the [...]w Board Chairman Klaus Ahlers and [...] HDW works council over issues of [...]litical style, commercial competence [...]d apportionment of blame.

[T]he latest management move came as [...] surprise to the staff, some of whom [...]e already on half or even quarter [...], drawing their pay from both the [...]pany and the Labour Office.

But the fact that the news of the latest [...]off plans was released the day after [...] Schleswig-Holstein election without [...] works council having been informed [...]lled and was seen as an act of politi[...] clumsiness.

[T]he workers felt that the management [...]ed the release of the news in a way [...] would prevent a loss of conservati[...] votes in both the national and the [...]leswig-Holstein elections.

[...]4.9 per cent of the company stock is [...]d by Bonn and the balance by the [...]e of Schleswig-Holstein.

[T]he city-state of Hamburg can do litt[...] to prevent the company from sadd[...] it with an additional 2,500 jobless. [...] ultimate decision rests with the ma[...]ement board in Kiel, which has the [...]king of the supervisory board where [...] stockholders have the say. So there [...]ttle Hamburg can do short of pump[...] millions into the ailing company.

[O]ne section of Klaus Ahlers' rescue [...]eprint envisages the possibility of [...]ng the Hamburg operation to the [...]. This part of the operation had [...] considerably extended over the [...] 10 years, a move works council [...]rman Holger Mahler now cites as [...] example of the company's mismana[...]ment.

[T]he works council is also greatly [...]ed by the fact that the rescue blue[...]t suggests that "work discipline" at [...] yard must be improved.

[A]ccording to Mahler, there is nothing [...]ong wrong with the work discipline [...] the yard, considering that the men [...]e been worrying about their jobs for [...]rs.

[...] was ridiculous to assume that they [...]ld jeopardise their in any event [...]ky jobs by slacking at work.

[I]nstead, Mahler accuses the manage[...]nt of lack of work discipline and of [...]t having done its homework for the [...]st 20 years.

[...] Mahler says that the management did [...]thing to obtain orders from sectors other than shipping, such as offshore oil rigs, etc. Though this business is now also flagging, it could have provided many an order a few years ago. But of course this accusation leaves the present chairman in the clear because he has only held the post for the past six months.

Moreover, the accusation applies not only to HDW but, apart from a couple of exceptions, to all of Germany's major shipbuilders.

Of this country's 45 shipyards, five fall in the category of major companies (HDW, Blohm + Voss, Hamburg, AG "Weser" and Bremer Vulkan, Bremen, and Rheinstahl-Nordseewerke, Emden).

While small and medium yards still managed to weather the world-wide shipbuilding crisis, the big yards were caught in the vortex, turning the crisis into a national dilemma.

The small yards have kept above water by doing repair work and building specialised craft — none of which requires as much capital outlay as the orders the big yards went for.

The big yards were competing with Far Eastern shipbuilders, who can fall back on cheap labour. Germany's yards tried to emulate Japanese shipbuilding methods, which meant enormous outlays of money — especially in cases of supertankers.

Much of the business Germany's big yards went for was a matter of prestige rather than technical innovation. In many cases, launching a supertanker was technically a greater challenge than building it.

Since most of Germany's major companies — spearheaded by HDW and AG "Weser" — went for this type of prestige business, they were all equally badly hit when the oil crisis thwarted their long-term plans.

And since the shipbuilding managers were unable to come up with creative new ideas, it is their workers who now have to foot the bill for management's shortcomings.

But it is not only the Germans who find themselves in strife. The international crisis has hit virtually all traditional Old World shipbuilding nations and shipyards throughout the world are faced with the same five problems:

- The world-wide recession and the resulting shortage of paying cargo has made one-third of the world's merchant fleet redundant, so there is no demand for new construction;
- Construction of supertankers, for which many shipyards made huge investment, is likely to remain a dead issue until well into the next decade;
- The Japanese hae managed to capture about 50 per cent of the world's new construction, leaving the rest of the shipyards with unused capacities;
- Threshold countries like Korea and Brazil now build ships 40 per cent cheaper than the traditional shipbuilding nations;
- All shipbuilding nations subsidise their yards, thus distorting the market.

Even so, Germany's shipbuilding industry was in better shape until 1981 than its counterparts in the other traditional shipbuilding nations.

In 1981, Germany accounted for 4.1 per cent of the world's shipbuilding tonnage. This made this country the number one of the traditional shipbuilding nations and number five on the world list after Japan (49.6 per cent), Korea (5.5), Spain (4.6) and Brazil (4.2).


Workers at Howaldtswerke face their future. (Photo: dpa)

But in terms of orders in hand, Germany had already fallen back at that time, coming after Japan, Korea, Spain, Brazil, Taiwan, Poland, the USA and Britain.

DHW (along with a number of other large yards) had accepted orders at below-cost prices, thus programming losses.

Germany's yards have now called on Bonn to pay more attention to the problems of the shipbuilding industry.

In October 1982, the Shipbuilders Association presented Bonn with a list of EC countries that provide direct and indirect subsidies for their shipbuilding industries. These figures show how much governments subsidise new construction: Italy 66.17 per cent; France 59.23 per cent; Denmark 54.60 per cent; Britain 45.98 per cent; Belgium 41.40 per cent; Netherlands 38.30 per cent; Ireland 34.75 per cent; Greece 21.50 per cent. German subsidies amount to 22.9 per cent.

Thus the free market distortions even within the European Community can only be called grotesque.

The extent of subsidies has always depended on the extent of price undercutting by such low-wage countries as Korea, Taiwan and Brazil. The original idea behind the subsidies was to keep the shipyards of high-wage countries going until wages and other construction costs in the other countries rose to the point where competition would be free of distortion once more.

This strategy has led to excessive production capacities that could only lead to a destructive competition even under normal circumstances.

Good entrepreneurs would in these circumstances either have opted out of the business altogether or they would have switched to a new product.

But none of Germany's major shipyards has tried to switch to new products except Blohm + Voss, which is part of the Thyssen group. The others stuck to their lasts — mostly at the taxpayer's expense.

The city-state of Bremen has been worst hit by this inertia. As Bremen's Mayor Hans Koschnick puts it, Germany's smallest state has more shipyards than any other state of the republic, and all are in trouble.

Mayor Koschnick often spends more time trying to keep shipyards out of trouble than governing his city-state.

The problem is that Bremen's treasury is notoriously empty and that there just is not enough money to keep the yards going. It is therefore up to Bonn and the banks to lend a hand.

But Bonn and the banks have been increasingly reluctant since the change of government — especially where the social democratic-governed city-states of Hamburg and Bremen are concerned.

Bremen's most prestigious yard, AG "Weser" (which is owned by Krupp) and the Bremerhaven Seebeck yard have been on the verge of bankruptcy for years.

But at least Krupp is still prepared to pump more money into the shipyard that once built the world's fastest liners.

The neighbouring yard, Bremer Vulkan, does not have a similarly generous major stockholder. This yard was controlled by the Thyssen-Bornemisza group, which opted out gradually as the shipbuilding business deteriorated.

The Bremen Senate bought some of the stock in an effort to salvage what could be salvaged. And just before the 6 March national election Bremen pumped another DM 40m into the yard that the owners left in the lurch. But can it still be salvaged?

There was a time in the shipbuilding industry when neither the yard workers nor their works councils had anything to worry about.

It usually takes two years or longer to build a ship, and though orders were always known to come in batches there was always enough work to go around. Even if a couple of years went by without a major order, the order books were usually full enough to keep the yards busy. As a result, the shipyards were largely unaffected by economic cycles.

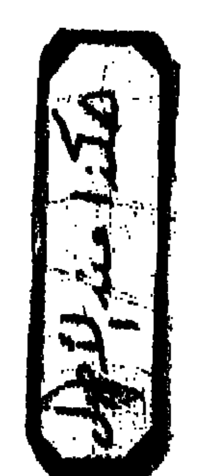
Major yards like HDW in Hamburg and Kiel, AG "Weser" and Vulkan have hundreds of people who have been on their payrolls for 20 years or longer. To them, being in the shipbuilding industry spelt job security.

But now there can no more economic cycles with which the shipyards can come to terms and which they can weather. All we have now is general stagnation: too many yards and too many ships combined with too few shipping companies with the ready cash for new tonnage.

The truth of the matter is that a branch of industry that has been artificially bloated has no option now but to shrink.

Unfortunately, those who are free of blame, the workers, are the victims of this shrinking process.

Bernd Hansen
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 27 March 1983)



■ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Königswinter Anglo-German talks broaden their scope

The Königswinter Anglo-German Conference has been a regular spring-time event now for 33 years.

For many years, both sides were content to preoccupy themselves with their own respective problems: the British urged the Germans to recognise the Oder-Neisse Line, while the Germans urged the British to take a plunge and join the Common Market.

This mutual contemplation of navels has gradually become a thing of the past.

Attention has increasingly focussed on the common problems facing both countries within larger organisational units and on the difficulties associated with the membership of these international bodies.

This time, the central question was: how stable is the Atlantic Alliance?

Henry Kissinger once hit the nail of pessimism right on the head once when he said: "There is hardly any issue on which Americans and Europeans share the same opinion."

The following are just some of the disputed topics: the way to behave towards Moscow; East-West trade; disarmament policy; strategic doctrine; how to deal with the Third World; economic policy.

What many conference speakers said back up this pessimistic appraisal of the situation.

The deputy head of the British Labour Party, Denis Healey, for example, argued against the conservatives on the Potomac who claim that thin Russians are easier to negotiate with than fat ones.

Others, such as the CDU politician Carl Otto Lenz, condemn such Atlantic pessimism: "We're all in the same boat, but instead of all rowing together we're discussing who's been hit hardest by sea-sickness."

A compromise between the two views prevailed. There is still a fundamental identity of interests between America and Western Europe, that which divides.

All existing problems can be solved if there is good will on both sides.

The discussion on rearmament petered out, with experts seeing things through expert's eyes and politicians through politicians' eyes.

What one group regarded as lacking in problems the other found to be difficult to implement.

Both the British and the Germans get the creeps when they think forward to the possible deployment of new Nato weapons in Europe at the end of the year.

One politician had the presumption to say: "Even if the acts of civil disobedience lead to one or two deaths, the government must stand firm in its decision to deploy the new weapons."

This prompted a British lord to remark: "Our government will step down from the decision long before there are two dead persons . . ."



At the Anglo-German talks: from left, Lilo Milchsack, honorary president Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft, the British-German society which spons Königswinter talks; Karl Günther von Hase, the society's chairman and Jür lemann, Minister of State at the Foreign Ministry. (Photo: Heinz Engels/Gem

Otherwise, the mood was one of general agreement.

The growing unemployment upsets people more than the arms issue, and it was hardly surprising that the discussion centred on this topic. Unfortunately, too much time was wasted on theoretical excursions.

Intervention by the state or market mechanisms, supply-oriented economic strategies or a boost in demand?

At the end, both sides could only agree that the most useful solution is a compromise between the two.

One professor from Berlin was ardent in his criticism of all those who want to do everything via the price.

His argument was based on the fact that it is an illusion to believe that price competition exists on all markets, the prime example to the contrary being the labour market.

According to his analysis, those jobs lost during the recession will only be available to 50 per cent of unemployed if the economy picks up.

The other 50 per cent can only be reintegrated via "socialism within the working class", i.e. the investments must be financed by the workers.

For if this task were passed on to the factor capital, workers would very soon find themselves out of work again. However, a union member had something else to say.

In his opinion, there is no way of getting around a reduction in working hours (on a weekly basis or in terms of working years). The campaign to push this through will begin in autumn.

As he pointed out, 80 per cent of those workers who had the choice decided to finish work at an earlier age.

During the discussion on the relationship between America and Europe a plea was made to create a European centre of power, a reminder of Kennedy's Grand Design of a two-pillar alliance.

The time has come for joint European action, it was claimed.

Today's big problems, unemployment, pollution, growth policy, international indebtedness, can only be solved via a coordinated approach.

Compared with the international institutions set up after the Second World War, which contributed towards an economic upswing — the Marshall plan, Bretton Woods, Gatt, — we have lost our fantasy and have resigned ourselves to the way things are, said Labour politician Peter Shore, who went on to issue a plea for new initiatives on a European level.

Another British guest felt that the time had come for the governm the (EEC) member states to sta things themselves again as seems to be moving in Brussels.

Professor Ralf Dahrendorf co that there are three problems wh tain and West Germany have mon:

First, both countries are appr a period in which the campaign disobedience against rearmam increase.

Second, both governments ha economic-policy promises wh cannot keep: even an econo swing will not be able to remov ployment.

Third, the mobility of voters sides of the Channel is increa ters who are no longer show al legiance to traditional elector viour and ideas.

Why are there no Greens in No clear answers could be foun

The German Greens presen

DIE ZEI

selves at the conference for t time and proved to be both ch an enlivening addition.

Dahrendorf's thesis that the chantment of many people wa to many seeking representation tical extremes rather than in th cal middle-ground met with a p response among the Greens, w particularly interested in dece tion, regionalism and participa the majority of the citizens in p activities.

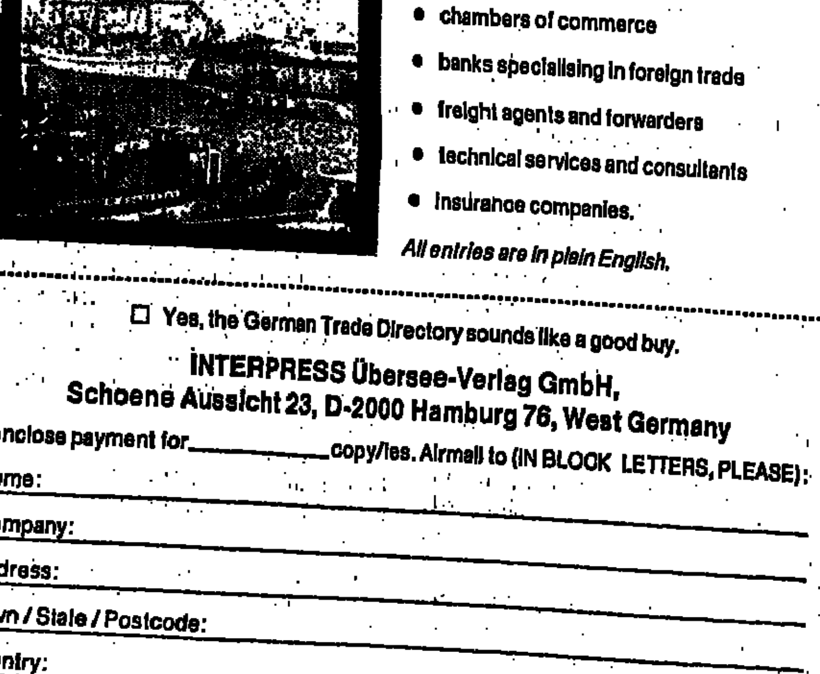
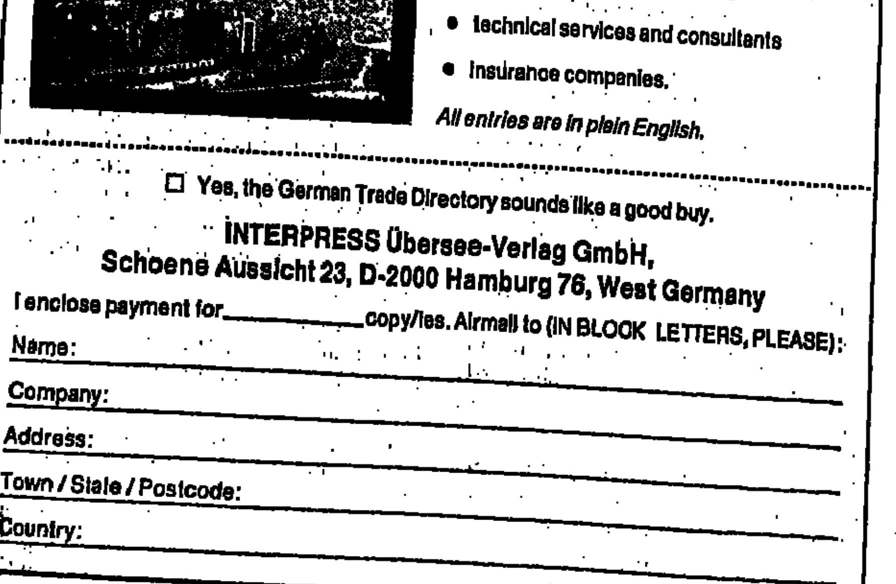
The question of whether m are always in the right and why jority in parliament is allowed on the fate of regional minoriti though the latter usually repres majority in the area in questio just some of the points of discuss

The counter-question of cours should minorities be allowed to majorities?

The reply given by the Gree elected elites no longer repres majority of the population.

Although not acting as media this dispute, one British parl calmed down both groups by co ing that: even if the variety of in were to be split up into an infin ber of small groups, the basic mo decision-making would still have cide on the alternative of a major minority — a statement whic hardly be disputed.

Marion Gräfin Dö
Theo So
(Die Zeit, 21 Ma

AUTOMATION

The shadow of Siegfriedle hangs over assembly-line workers

gfriedle's job at the Daimler car ctory in Mettingen on the Neckar tty unhealthy.

tected inside a spraying booth work permitting, wrapped up in a c cover, Siegfriedle is one of those nsible for spraying black paint the front axles of the Mercedes pass by hanging on the assembly

wever, Siegfriedle doesn't worry much about his poisonous environ of paint and solvents and, reliable e is, completes one shift after the r.

or, apart from his nickname, this icular sprayer is not really all that an: his proper name is Robot II on y line II.

iegfriedle cost about DM140,000 was bought from the Norwegian factory Trallfa.

"We're not living behind the times" s Werner Niefer, head of production the Daimler-Benz AG, "even if peo tell us we are, comparing us to the panese with their 100,000 robots."

Siegfriedle is certainly no lonely ot; the Swabian company has alrea installed 300 industrial robots.

he robots help out when it comes to ing, moulding and hardening cons tion components.

They do the welding on the 52 weld joints on the rear axles of the new mall Mercedes".

hey also complete the welding on bodywork of the S and the new mpact 190 class car, and do the aying, stick on the protective mate to protect the bottom of the car, ve the heavy spare wheels into the .

here's even a robot who checks ther the other robots have done ir welding work properly.

"The early days were not so success ", Niefer points out, himself a doctor engineering, reminding us of the e-off period for robots.

he biggest problem was that the ro s doing the welding on the car's side els had to keep their welding points tenth of a millimetre accuracy.

This wasn't easy for robots using ding devices weighing five to ten ki rams.

Robots were first used for Mercedes in 1970 to welt the side panel of the ass cars.

fter a while the industrial robots, or be more precise the engineers in the works, managed to strike a balance ween power and precision and the l breakthrough was achieved in the d of welding.

Fully automated welding lanes only off at the production level of about 00 car bodies a day.

In Daimler-Benz's case, on the other nd, the full automation of bodywork lding, i.e. the replacement of welders robots, turned out to be an economi proposition at a level of just a few ndred cars a day.

As Niefer explains, "the welding ro s are much more flexible in compari with the rigidly linked special ma ines needed for the manufacturing of rge production series."

Because of their many advantages, the "easy-to-programme operational ro bots" as the engineers define them, are gaining in popularity in other fields of production.

These machines, which can move on five or six axles for one tool (for example, a set of welding pliers) or for one work-piece (one engine block, for example), can take on operations which are difficult and damaging to health — whether in a blast furnace, on welding lanes in spraying works, where it is more and more difficult to find anybody willing to do the job, despite high unemployment.

In addition, the electrically, pneumatically or hydraulically operated robots are often much better than humans, and in cases where two shifts are operated they are also less expensive than wage earners.

Finally, the 'slaves of steel' enable the manufacturers to replace the efficient but extremely rigid transfer lanes by flexible production lines.

The robots, constructed by Kuka (Augsburg) and Unimation (USA) can deal with cars of all categories.

They are programmed for each model and can be adjusted as the need arises.

This makes it easier for the works managers to re-arrange production according to the orders which come in, i.e. on a shorter-term basis.

If one car model is replaced by a new one, all the programmers have to do is to re-programme the robots in line with the new tasks.

The usual rigidly linked transfer lanes, on the other hand, have to be completely dismantled and very often sold as scrap.

On the other hand, the "one-purpose lane" in Sindelfingen does have advantages over the robots.

It puts together almost 1,000 bodyworks each day and can weld almost 99.5 per cent of the weld points for the medium-range cars.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Robots in the S-class only manage 70 per cent. What is more, the "one-purpose lane" is more precise than the operational robots and even the welders with their heavy welding devices.

"The car industry is the fastest to take on new technological developments", says Rolf D. Schraft, Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Techniques and Automation (IPA) in Stuttgart-Vaihingen.

It is a kind of 'one-step-ahead' industry for robots, "about 60 per cent of the machines used in the Federal Republic of Germany can be found there".

The Institute, which is also one of the most important advanced specialists in the field of mechanical engineering, estimated the number of industrial robots used in domestic industries at 3,500 (up to last December), 1,200 more than the level for the previous year and almost three times as many as at the end of 1980.

The IPA reckons that there are now about 9,000 robots in the whole of Europe, as many as there are in the USA, the original 'home' of the robot.

The car industry has always been in the lead in this particular field. Volkswagen went along with Daimler-Benz towards the end of the last decade and began employing them. The Americans had constructed the first robots in this field during the 1960s. Today, VW in Wolfsburg is not only the largest German manufacturer of robots; it has also installed the most.

By the end of last year, the VW and Audi plants were using about 960 robots. By the end of 1983, the figure is planned to increase to 1,240.

Alongside VW, which up to now has only constructed robots for its own use, there are well over a dozen other companies which manufacture them in Germany including Keller + Knappich (Kuka), Jungheinrich, Reiss, the Zahnradfabrik Friedrichshafen, Siemens and Bosch.

"I have sincere doubts as to whether most of them have in fact managed to earn money yet", says Schraft.

For although the unit costs for the robots are low, the cost for research and development are very high.

Sometimes, says the IPA man, the robots are worth more than their purchasers pay — the going rate is between DM50,000 and DM300,000 a piece.

"These are policy prices just to ensure entrance into the market."

The German robot manufacturers have to compete against the much larger companies from abroad, which have been in this business a lot longer.

The Swedish company ASEA, Norway's Trallfa, the American companies Unimation and Cincinnati Milacron, Kawasaki Heavy Industries and Fujitsu, the market leader in Japan, for example.

A look at the various jobs the robots have been programmes to do by the production managers provides an idea of their versatility.

1,300 of the 3,500 robots counted by the IPA are involved in spot welding operations, 585 do welding joints, 400 do coating work, i.e. spray paint or PVC.

Many are used for loading and unloading, to carry heavy pieces of machinery. However, up to now only just over 100 are being used in the assembly work itself.

In the Mercedes works, for example, half of the total manufacturing time is required to assemble passenger cars.

"We've still got a long way to go in the assembly field", Schraft sorrily remarks.

The robots are still not able to do the more complicated handwork required for assembly line jobs, as many of the parts are constructed in such a complex way.

For example, none of the robots in German factories can tell the difference between the sizes needed for individual tools such as a screwdriver etc.

The devices are unable to come to terms with "an environment in which there are non-organised elements", as Schraft puts it. They just haven't got the "optical and tactile sensors" humans possess.

Engineers throughout the world working on robots are therefore centring their attention on developing better sensory techniques, often with the aid of the TV camera.

(Cartoon: Liebermann/Die Produktion)

Their primary objective is to teach the robot how to select the correct tool for the proper situation and thus enable more exact work on the conveyor belt.

Robots are already able to do the more simple tasks in this field, such as putting on washers or assembling the crankcase.

Up to now, however, the more complicated operations have only been tested in the experimental laboratory atmosphere and not under factory conditions.

The Hanover Trade Fair after Easter is sure to see IPA blowing its horn to attract greater interest in its robotniks.

The BBC electrical appliances company will be presenting a robot which can distinguish between brightness and darkness. It will be able to dip into a tray and hand over a tennis ball as a present to the amazed visitor.

The perfection of such abilities on the motor assembly line will, however, remain the dream of robot fans over the next few years.

The unions, particularly the metalworkers union *IG-Metall*, already view the robots as a major job-killer.

To begin with, the metal workers regarded their metallic co-operator as a more sturdy colleague, which would help improve overall working conditions. However, their forecast has become more gloomy.

By the end of the 1980s there will be at least 40,000 industrial robots in operation in the Federal Republic of Germany alone.

Heinz Jäger, who is particularly involved in dealing with the social implications of automation and who works in the IG-Metall's headquarters in Frankfurt, sees trouble ahead.

According to a recent report by the German Trade Unions' own Institute for Economics and Social Sciences in Düsseldorf, between 200,000 and 300,000 of the 1.1 million workers employed in conveyor belt activities will lose their jobs over the next few years.

A robot can, depending on the job in question, replace up to five workers. Gustav Feith, a member of the joint project on the "Humanisation of the Working Environment" backed by the IG-Metall and the Federal Ministry for Research Activities, believes that the job-killing effect will increase in the near future.

"The robots are becoming more and more intelligent", he comments. "Things will probably take off in this field in 1985."

In his opinion, there is a much greater threat to the machine-building industry.

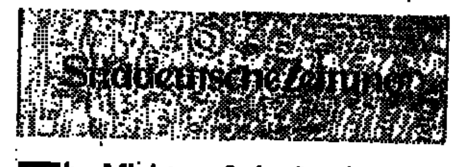
Feith: "Up to now, we've not really built up a proper oppositional front against the robots."

However, with the danger to jobs growing due to the new technologies

Continued on page 15

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Minister declares war on pollution pirates



The Minister of the Interior, Friedrich Zimmermann has drawn up a DM1bn plan for a fleet of ships to patrol German coastal waters to catch marine polluters.

The fleet would be run by the Federal border police (*Bundesgrenzschutz*). Herr Zimmermann has also plans to increase aerial surveillance by the border police.

But cost is a problem that may prevent him from jumping in right at the dirty end of the ecology pool and making a name for himself.

The proposed 60-metre long, helicopter carrying ships are almost in the corvette class and would cost DM200 million each. Helicopters are expensive. And a team of more than 300 would be needed to run the force.

In addition, there is the element of competition: boats from the customs department are already used for spotting polluters. The coastal states also use harbour police and other forces to patrol.

Herr Zimmermann's plans are to be looked on as a flanking measure on a national level in preparation for a conference planned by him for 1984 in which the countries bordering the North Sea will discuss the problem of oil pollution at sea.

However, his Ministry feels that concrete counter-measures cannot wait until then.

This is the reason for the plans to extend and expand the operations of the border police.

Talks are to be held soon with the Finance Minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg. Hopes are high that these proposals will be accepted and money supplied.

Stoltenberg, who himself comes from Schleswig Holstein in the north of Germany, will be interested in a clean sea, not to mention the jobs for the suffering shipyards which are also endangered by continued pollution.

The customs boats, which are under the responsibility of Finance Minister Stoltenberg, already keep an eye out for pollution at sea.

The coastal federal states, the CDU-run Lower Saxony and Schleswig Holstein and the SPD-run city states Hamburg and Bremen, also have their own capacities to protect the shipping routes — either with the help of the harbour police or by the other means.

Werner Dollinger, Minister for Transport, will also he interested in having a say in the matter.

This particular Ministry has a coordinating centre in Cuxhaven to deal with reports of oil pollution.

In Transport Ministry circles there would seem to be a greater interest in extending existing capacities rather than creating new ones, at great expense at that.

Not only would Zimmermann need DM1 billion for boats and helicopters but additional money for the running and maintenance costs of the *Bundesgrenzschutz* fleet, which hasn't even got a base in the North Sea.

The most restrained Minister over the issue is the Minister for Defence, Manfred Wörner (CDU). His navy would be more than willing to take over the surveillance functions proposed for the Zimmermann fleet.

Even during the previous SPD/FDP government's period of office a "memorandum" was made according to which the Minister for Transport was willing to pay the navy for such services.

And after all, the various captains and pilots, whether they're in a *Starfighter, Tornado* or a helicopter have clear instructions to immediately radio report any cases of environmental pollution they may witness to the centre in Cuxhaven.

The Dornier company has financed by the Ministry for Transport developed a special device for Do-28 machines in the Navy, which can detect exact data on the culprit.

Highly sensitive

It consists of a side-borne radar, TV apparatus, infra-red and microwave sensors.

They have been brought up to such a degree of sensitivity that it would be impossible to fit them into a helicopter; they can only be transported by *Starrflügler* such as the Do-28s.

In view of the severe lack of money for fuel, the navy would undoubtedly be happy to increase their sea-borne hours with the financial backing of the Minister of Transport. Thus, two birds could be killed with one stone.

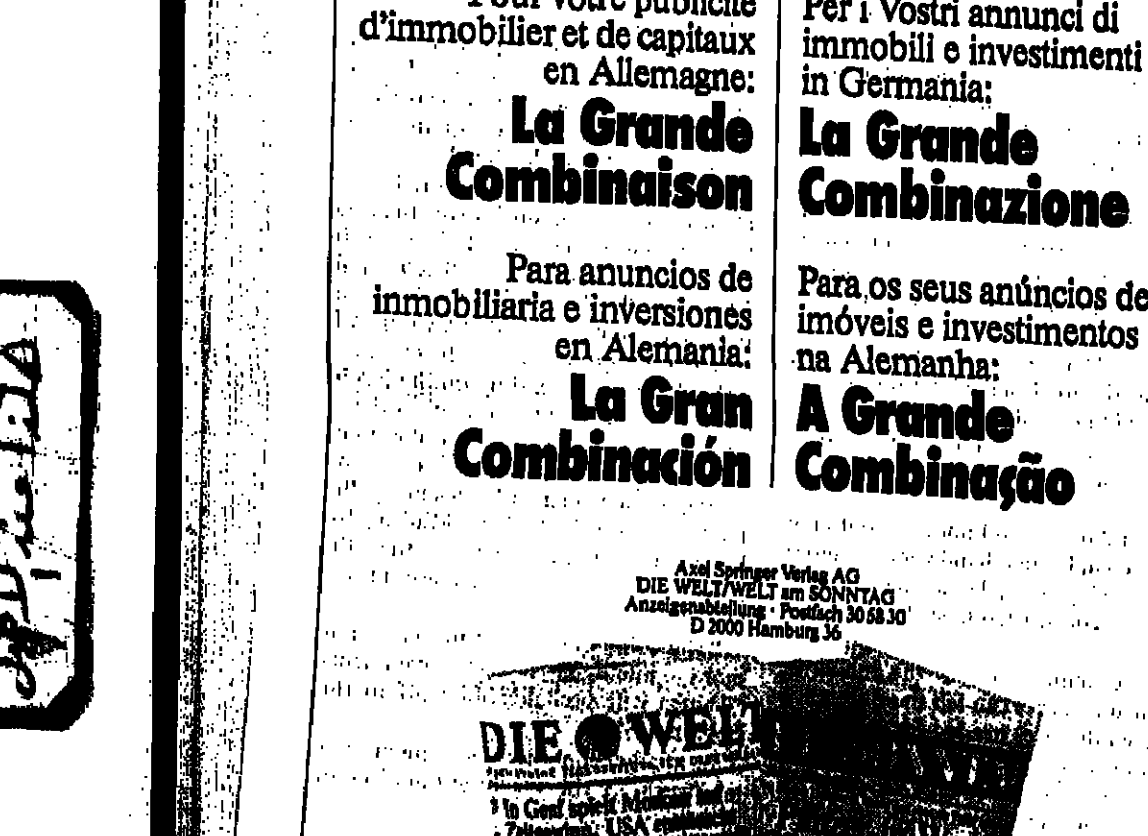
The training of the crew would be improved and at the same time something would be done about environmental pollution.

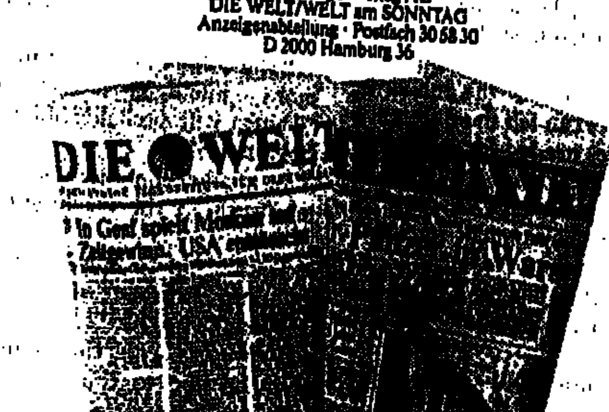
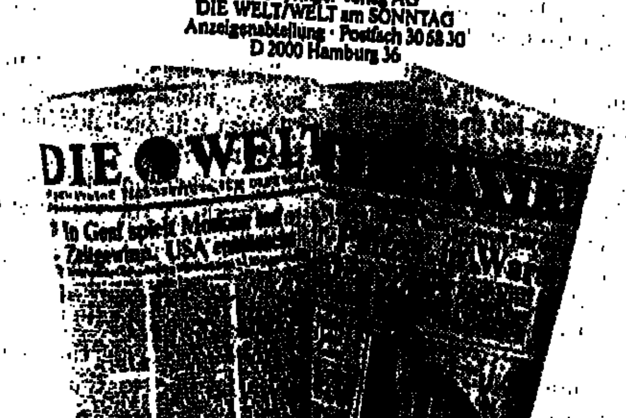
If it should prove necessary for the border police to step in, he could be transported via helicopter.

One expert in Bonn feels that the German Auditor General will regard Herr Zimmermann's project as a waste of tax-payer's money.

A. Szandar

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 March 1983)





The Transrapid 06 ... ready for operation, but there are doubts about its ...

■ TRANSPORT

Hovertrain comes on li...

After twelve years of expe... tion the world's first magn... vertrain for passenger service in...

The green-lined prototype "T... pid 6" (TR6), which is still in ... has been brought to operation... for most of its functions in the ... building of the Krauss-Maffei l... tive factory in Munich.

The 51-ton train will have its ... in Emsland at the end of March...

Joint sponsors of the project ... the German Federal Railway (B... bahn) and Lufthansa.

The train should reach speed... to 300 km/ph over the 20.6 km ... by the end of the year. It has ... reached over 400 km/ph in ... tests.

"The magnetic railway is a co... ly new transport system," exp... Stefan Hedrich, who is in charg... transport engineering departm... firm running the project.

This vehicle combines the be... a plane and a train, although i... greater resemblence to the la... regard to fuel consumption.

It cannot come off the rails o...

In case an emergency does ... emergency slides have been incl... allow passengers to step down ... surface if the hovertrain com... unexpected standstill.

In addition, the train, the de... ment of which is backed by wel... German firms, is quiet, wear-fr... friendly to the environment.

The hovertrain rails could b... over existing railway lines.

"Our dream run would be Co... Düsseldorf" explains a spokes... the firm.

The magnetic railway would b... cularly useful as a shuttle servic... ports or commuter services in th...

At present, 50 possible locati... trial runs are being examined ... out the world.

A project in the USA has th... chances. The construction of a ... stretch from Los Angeles to La... is to begin in 1986.

Eight Transrapid successor ... could then transport a daily load ... to 600 passengers in a journey ... of 1 hour and fifteen minutes.

At present, normal trains take ... and a half hours for this run.

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 16 Ma...

...HE MEDIA

Light entertainment show wins television award

...e Adolf Grimme Prize is the only ...ize and competition which covers ...whole range of TV programmes. It ...first awarded in 1964.

...e prize has always acted as a seis...aph for the latest moods and ...s in German television.

...s good to see the jury cast its vote ...o light entertainment programmes ...ear, which both belong to the best ... something which need not ne...ily be incompatible — the most ...lar programmes shown last year.

...e gold was taken by Alfred Biolek ...the TV series called *Bio's Bahnhof* ...'s Station), which is indeed produc...n a disused railway shed in Frechen, ...r Cologne.

...ith its well-rounded comic effects ... intelligent wit, the show was a true ...ture of clever slapstick, marvellous ...tradictions and interesting contrasts.

...he programme set out to combine ...agonistic elements which attract and ...not repel one another.

...he award comes just at the right ...e for the show's inspiration, Dr Bio... who has decided to move back into ...studio and bid farewell to life in the ...way station.

...nother obvious choice for a prize ... the satirical programme *Scheiben...scher* (windscreen-wipers) which ...es the German viewers an insight ...o some of the country's politically ..."untouchable" areas with its exquisite ...d of journalism and cabaret.

...*Scheibenwischer* was and is not merely ...political cabaret but almost bucks up ...tical programmes by digging a little ...per into the background of certain ...es.

...n January, for example, it focussed ...attention on the Rhine-Main-Danube ...canal. The question has been raging ...years: should this massive project ...ahead or not?

...uring recent years there has been a ...al inflation caused by the increase ..."honorary acknowledgements" by ...jury.

...his year there were six of these ...uld-be-prizes", too many by any...'s standards.

...ne of the prize's which was originally ...warded just for educational series is ... presented for general series of ...s.

... TV series by Franz Peter Wirth, ...h is a transposed version of the au...ography of the Polish Jewish girl Ja... David, was awarded a gold for the ... coordination: silver went to the ...y of the *Knapp-Familie* from the ...-mining area of the Ruhr valley, an ...ing piece of entertainment with its ...ac-like sharpness and Maupassant-...boldness.

...his particular case can be referred to ...typical Grimme Prize.

...or one thing, the the actual realisa... of the series more than deserves the ...rd: for another, the Prize is intend...o shake up some of the more lily-li...ed members of broadcasting boards ... give those trade unions a slap in ...eye who didn't feel that the series ...a good public relations job for the ...ers.

...here is also acknowledgement for ...category of the TV-play.

...A tip passed on by Austrian televi...n. Fritz Lehner's film version of a novel by Franz Innerhofer, led to a prize for *Schöne Tage.*

Praise is spoken for the "exemplary performances by the amateur actors, the intensity of which is reminiscent of efforts by Pasolini in this field."

One sentence caused slight annoyance because of its excessiveness:

"This film demonstrates the possibilities for reflecting reality, which are of course not open to commercial cinema."

My dear Grimme jury, what exactly do you mean by "of course"? And what the is not open to TV?

At least three films are pointed out which would be worth another showing.

First, the Werner Másten's TV play *Das Glück beim Händewaschen* (Happiness When Washing Your Hands), the story of a boy from Southern Tirol who has problems finding his true identity in the growing Italianisation of his area.

Second, Annette Humpe's report *Liebe, Geld und Tod* (Love, Money and Death), an attempt to overcome the all-dominant world of statistics by referring to exemplary comments.

Central social questions are dealt with by a punk on the one hand and a police cadet on the other.

The third film is a film report entitled *Ausländer raus? Ein Ort in Deutschland* (Foreigners go home? Some-where in West Germany), which is a collection of observations in the out-of-the-way village of Rheda-Wiedenbrück.

This is a classic example for the differences between the real world and the world conjured up by political clichés.

We see strong ties between Germans and foreigners but also antagonisms.

The special prize for *Ausländer in der Bundesrepublik* (Foreigners in the Federal Republic) shows how fast those responsible for awarding the prizes were to react (this includes the Adolf Grimme Institute which plays a large part in decisions).

The very fact that this field is the most important and politically tricky issue of the day in Germany should be enough to boost the promotion of films which deal with these problems critically. What was missing this year was the selection of a smaller magazine-type report.

The rundown given by Stefan Aust on the eviction of persons from eight houses in West Berlin on 29 September, 1981; including the video playback of how Hans Jürgen Rattay died would have been a good candidate in this respect. Dr Wolfgang Moser's report on the slaughtering of seals.

The neglect of such documentary-style films makes it look as if TV is lacking in topicality.

A final example of good topical reporting is Ulrich Kienzle's description of the weeks preceeding the assassination of the Lebanese President Béchir Gemayel and of the terrible massacres in the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Chatila. His piece was *Heisser Sommer.*

No Third World topic, no environmental issues, nothing topical taken from a magazine programme.

Where was the prize for Hans Dieter Grabe's film documentations or Gerhard Botts' report on the *Schandfleck KOMM* (The KOMM Disgrace), the scene of the most spectacular mass arrest in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany?

Unfortunately, the Grimme jury missed out on quite a bit of quality material.

Rupert Neudeck

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 18 March 1983)

Germans take their TV to New York

Americans will be able to have a closer look at the realities of German films and TV presentations.

The first "German Film Weeks" in New York will be presenting a whole series of productions by Germany's two big broadcasting channels, ARD and ZDF.

The director of the federal off-shoot station *Westdeutscher Rundrunk,* Friedrich-Wilhelm von Sell, said the event was a breakthrough which will help revers: the one-way trend in TV ties between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Whereas American TV productions are part and parcel of German TV life, German productions are few and far between on the other side of the Atlantic.

The programme presented in New York would also show that TV in Germany often prepares the way for cinematic success, Sell emphasised.

Together with productions from the field of "Documentation and Culture", "TV Plays and Light Entertainment" and children's programmes, there will also be a rundown of the most well-known films produced by the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

Fassbinder made a name for himself in the States. Over half of his 40 films were produced for television.

The programme in New York will also contain TV productions by director Wolfgang Peterson (22 TV films), whose film *Das Boot* became a big hit on the American circuit.

dpa

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 10 March 1983)

The blind throw scriptwriters a challenge

The prize awarded by Germany's war blind for the best radio play has done a great deal to foster the development of this broadcasting genre.

For more than 30 years, the prize jury, half of whom are war-blinded people themselves (the other half are critics) has been providing encouragement for many authors to try producing something for this field.

The award consists of a sculpture and a repeat broadcast of the prize-winning play on all German radio networks.

The 1982 prize went to Gert Hoffmann for *Die Brautschau des Dichters Robert Walser im Hof der Anstaltswäscherei von Bellelay* (literally: The Search For a Bride in the Bellelay Laundry Courtyard). It received 18 of the 19 votes.

Hoffmann's play showing how the banished Robert Walser declared his love to the washerwoman at the laundrette, are full of human warmth and credibility.

The production, by Hans Rosenhauer from the *Norddeutscher Rundfunk,* also added impressive local Swiss colouring to the presentation.

The jury's attention was also attracted by an experiment by the *Hessischer Rundfunk.*

During the "documenta 1982" exhibition in Kassel Jürgen Gerr set up a series of microphones to gather the opinions and feelings of visitors.

He would have stood a better chance of topping the prize list if he had not been quite as liberal in his selection of how much of this "spontaneous displeasure" to keep in his "play".

The fact that Hoffmann's play got the prize is not necessarily an indication of an increasing trend towards plainness and directness, a style preferred, for example, by radio play director Dieter Hasselblatt *(Bayrischer Rundfunk)* and Gerhard Klezoldy *(RIAS-Berlin).*

Hoffmann's presentation simply had greater power of persuasion.

Other authors also went for more simple forms of presentation: Rolf Becker in *Eigentlich bin ich stumm* (Really, I'm speechless), a production by the *Westdeutscher Rundfunk,* which tells the story of how a woman finds a path to her own personality, is just one example.

Another: Gerhard Kelling's *Randung* (The Surf), a RIAS-Berlin production, a love story full of puns.

Yet another: Helmut Peschina's *Ich doch nicht* (Me, not at all), a dialogue with doch nicht (Me, not at all), a dialogue with a homosexual.

Although these plays are not artistic or experimental they are typical for current radio play productions.

The main criterion for the prize is the maximum effect the play has in the acoustic radio medium.

Which were the main topics dealt with this year? Were they the big problems of the day: unemployment, arms policies or the political situation in Bonn? Not at all!

It seems as if there is not sufficient confidence to try these hotly disputed issues due to their fast-moving nature.

Preference was given to psychological or socio-cultural fields. There are a striking amoung of flashbacks.

In *Ein wahres Hörspiel* (A Real Radio Play) by Hans-Magnus Enzensberger (production by SFB) the author falls back on Diderot; Barbara Honigmann's tale *Der Schneider von Ulm* (The Tailor from Ulm), an SDR production, reflects on the dreams of self-fulfilment.

Elfriede Jelinek and Ursula Krechel searched to find historical figures such as Clara Schumann or Caroline von Günderrode when dealing with the topic of women's liberation.

The radio version of Christa Wolfs' *Kein Ort, Nirgends* (No Place, Nowhere) — WDR production — was also put on the short list for a prize.

Radio experimentations with music were presented by Dieter Kühn in his tragic artist's monologue *Konzert für Sprecher und Orchester in e-Moll* (Concert for Speech and Orchestra in e-minor), another production by the *Hessischer Rundfunk,* which also delves into historical retrospective.

Another example of this approach is *Endstation — eine radiophonische Vision* (The End of the Line — A Radiophonic Vision) by Harald Weiss, a critical look at media and psychiatry put on by the *Saarländischer Rundfunk.*

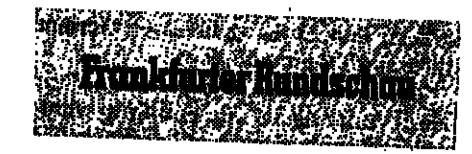
The radio play is alive and well! Even if, as in other artistic genres, it has seen better days.

Klaus Colberg

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 24 March 1983)

■ EDUCATION

Students sue university in row over arms sales



A dispute at Marburg University over whether theology students may write to arms manufacturers in a bid to get them to stop making arms has gone to court.

The students sued when University President Professor Walter Kröll gave them a written warning and then froze the student union funds.

They argue that their letters had nothing to do with politics but were motivated by "theological considerations and responsibility."

The dispute started in spring last year when the students joined protest demonstrations in an attempt to prevent firms from exhibiting at the Hanover Military Electronics Show (IDEE).

They wrote to one of the exhibitors from the Marburg region, Schoeller und Co. Elektronik GmbH, asking it not to exhibit.

"We regard this show as a threat to peace and a direct promotion of warfare from the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany," said the letter.

It was irresponsible enough to supply Third World military dictatorships with the military electronics they needed to strengthen their power but an even greater danger lay in the greatly improved target accuracy of weapons systems through which defensive forces inevitably became offensive.

"This means that a military establishment must no longer wait and respond to attack but that the enemy must be beaten to the draw. It follows that this can hardly reduce the danger of war."

The firm was urged to "consider the possibility of switched its production to socially useful goods." The students told the company that they were interested in "discussing the issue."

The company did not reply. Instead, it asked the university president if the students were allowed to do this, and if not, whether disciplinary measures were called for.

In mid-May last year, Professor Kröll told the students that their letter was incompatible with the functions of the student body. He asked them to stop; otherwise he would be forced to act.

The students refused, saying that "our cause is too important for us to allow ourselves to be silenced." They wrote another letter to the company, asking for a discussion.

The company again told the university. Professor Kröll then, in June last year, forbade the students from "calling on free enterprise to abstain from exhibiting, attempting to induce companies to switch to another product and seeking discussions with them."

The students were also forbidden to use student union funds for that purpose. If they did not comply the student union assets would be frozen for three months "in the public interest."

The students ignored the warnings and their assets were frozen. They protested, and explained in a memorandum that: "The theology student body holds that, in keeping with its responsibility to God and the people, it must take a stand not only on university matters but on the affairs of the world as well because we students neither can nor wish to study in an ivory tower."

The students pointed to the "specifically theological character" of their statements in the letter, saying that these statements "cannot be lumped together with the general political discussion on peace."

A student body must be entitled to make such theological statements because "the question as to how to bring about and preserve peace in the world is a major part of theological training."

Their letter therefore had to be understood as a concrete expression of fundamental Christian tenets.

Professor Kröll rejected the theological arguments. The letters were clearly political, he said. The student union had no right to extend the scope of its activities, which was laid down in the Hesse University Law.

The university argued in court that letters of this type were outside the legal scope of the student union and that the students were trying to exert influence on the production of a private company.

The students, before the case went to court, said the Pope had intervened in the Falklands and Lebanon conflicts, acting out of theological responsibility. This argument was not accepted.

Professor Kröll, clearly irritated, replied that "unlike the Protestant theology students union, the pontiff was not subject to the provisions of the Hesse University Law."

A final attempt to settle the matter by discussion only aggravated the situation.

Manfred Ronzheimer
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 March 1983)

Differing views on how 'peace' should be taught in schools

The SPD and the CDU/CSU agree on the need for peace education at school. But they differ widely on how.

The SPD state education ministers want a broad peace concept which interprets peace as the reduction of personal aggressiveness and war as including social repression.

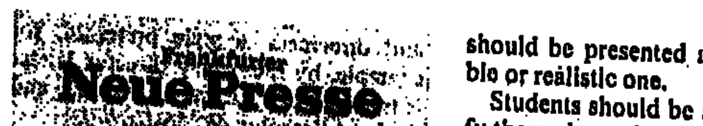
Conservative education ministers have not yet hammered out a uniform policy, but they want peace instruction to impart understanding for the need for the Bundeswehr as an instrument to maintain democracy.

Peace education should, they say, restrict itself to such incontrovertible factors as the provisions of the Constitution under which the nation may not wage a war of agression but must be able to defend itself.

A paper drafted by Baden-Württemberg's Education Minister Mayer-Vorfelder (CDU) and endorsed by the other CDU-governed states stresses that all male students are subject to the draft and, before leaving school, should be well informed about military service.

School, the paper says, must help remove misunderstandings and prejudices about the Bundeswehr. Many young people took for granted the democratic state with its high standard of living. It was up to the schools to explain why this should not be taken for granted.

Conservative education ministers want the schools to make it quite clear that the peace provisions of the Constitution expressly include armed defence and that this country pursues a peace policy in which renunciation of the use



of force goes hand-in-hand with defence preparedness.

Young people must be made to understand that there was choice, per se, between military service and civilian service. National service was a general obligation that may be refused on conscience grounds only.

The SPA also stresses that national service is not a matter of choice and that a refusal can only be based on grounds of conscience. They Social Democrats consider it particularly important for secondary school students to be nor only fully informed on the principles of military service and conscientious objection but that they should also have a general idea of the principles governing the state.

The SPD wants schools to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of peace, with all its ramifications.

Students should be familiarised with the different ideas on how to achieve and secure peace. None of these ideas should be presented as the only possible or realistic one.

Students should be allowed to identify themselves with the various concepts of peace without having any foisted on them.

Peace education was enable young people to take an informed and active part in the nation's peace policy. To do so they would have to delve into security policy as well.

One of the objectives of peace instruction was to convey to the students that, as a defence instrument, the Bundeswehr has a firm place in our society — a place assigned to it by the Constitution.

Conservative education ministers argue that the SPD's concept says nothing about how to provide objective information on the Bundeswehr in the face of violent disruptions of swearing-in ceremonies and the militantly anti-Bundeswehr stance of entire secondary school classes.

The conservatives believe that compromise solutions can be worked out.

But the latest conference of state education ministers did not deal with the issue at all.

dpa
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 19 March 1983)

A Bundesw[...] captain i[...] the classro[...]

The Bundeswehr uses yo[...] officers to put across its [...] view in the schools.

Their aims are to provide i[...] about the Bundeswehr and th[...] security policy and to try and [...] some understanding for peop[...] services.

One such officer is an a[...] tain. He often gets asked que[...] as: Are you free to say what y[...] His answer is yes. There is n[...] tion forbidding it.

The captain visits senior cla[...] condary schools.

To establish a rapport wi[...] and remove mistrust of the ur[...] starts by telling pupils about hi[...]

One pupil tells a classmate: "[...] the war stories".

A girl: "Do we have to liste[...] It doesn't even concern us."

Remarks like this are part o[...] day life for the captain: "I hav[...] in this business very long, bu[...] that the only way of coping is t[...] vincing."

Like his colleagues, the cap[...] his own method of coping, an[...] part of it.

When the heckling shows [...] getting out of hand, he says: "[...] whole briefcase full of a[...] forms ... anyone interested [...] up?" Most laugh with him.

But frequently he can say [...] too, sees things very much the[...] do — like when saying: "Eve[...] cian must want peace. What w[...] an honest security policy." Th[...] tain to earn him approval fr[...] class.

The young captain has d[...] dropped his military manner a[...] and is totally relaxed when d[...] his prepared lecture: "The be[...] would be to have peace with[...] pons. But a world without co[...] utopian."

This is where many of the yo[...] contradict him and he answe[...] saying: "Right now, there are s[...] armed conflicts going on in the [...] He scores another point.

The going gets tougher when [...] to explaining the function of N[...] venting war, acting as a deter[...] being a defence alliance).

There are some disenchanted [...] rings when he says that Nato h[...] Germany 30 years of peace.

Hecklers: "It's all empty w[...] know what's what."

They ask questions about [...] zism in the forces, about [...] drinking and boredom.

The officer reminds them th[...] of them will soon be drafted a[...] me soldiers themselves, telling [...] that "the spirit of totalitaria[...] dying out and virtually non-exis[...]

"And as to drinking, it's no [...] in the Bundeswehr than anywher[...]

"With boredom, it's like at sc[...] good NCO can prevent it just [...] good teacher can."

A girl raises a delicate su[...] wanting to know the captain's p[...] attitude towards the peace move[...]

His answer: "By and large, [...] people of goodwill; and three [...] of them are driven by fear."

Nobody asks him about hi[...] fears.

Stephan-Andreas Ca[...]
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 M[...])

■ MEDICINE

Very unconventional Professor Hackethal goes on a thorn-sticking campaign

[C]onventional medicine has no healing monopoly and patients who [wan]t to be treated by nature healers [sho]uld be allowed to, says Professor Ju[lius] Hackethal.

[P]rofessor Hackethal, a conventional [doc]tor, told a nature healers' meeting in [Mai]nz that he would remain a thorn in [the s]ide of conventional medicine.

[T]he professor is always assured of [app]lause at natural medicine meetings [bec]ause of his constant criticisms of his [con]ventional colleagues.

Another conventional medicine prac[titi]oner, Dr Josef Issels, a cancer specia[list], said cancer research has been "up a [blin]d alley for 120 years".

Other speakers at the International [Co]ngress of Nature Healers said that [con]ventional medicine had made no [pro]gress against cancer despite the ex[pe]nditure of huge amounts of money.

Therefore conventional medicine was [no]t qualified to ridicule natural medici[ne].

Nature healers are convinced they [are] on the right track because more [pe]ople, both patients and medical stu[de]nts, are demanding a more biological [ty]pe of medicine. They are becoming [inc]reasingly afraid of the effects of [pot]ent drugs.

One study showed that 30 per cent of [ca]ncer patients tried natural medicine [wh]en they learned they had the disease. [In] the late stages, the proportion jump[ed] *to as high* as 50 per cent.

More and more conventional doctors [a]re now prescribing natural medicine.

Nature healers say they save the na[tion]al health service of some DM1.5bn [a] year.

Speakers like Professor Julius Hacke[tha]l can always be assured of a stormy [ap]plause from nature healer quarters. [He] constantly attacks his conventional [col]leagues.

Professor Hackethal said conventio[nal] medicine has no healing monopoly. Patients want and should receive help [fro]m nature healers as well.

Had not all of his heretical theories [pu]t forward five years ago been proved [rig]ht? he asked.

Anyhow, he would remain a thorn in [th]e flesh of conventional medicine.

He still upholds his theory that pre[ven]tive mass checkups for cancer only [ser]ve to spread the disease.

But even if this were disregarded, [Pro]fessor Hackethal said that millions [of] marks are being wasted, to the detri[me]nt of the patients.

Have cancer fatalities not risen despi[te] these preventive checkups? he asked. [Per]haps they had risen *because* of the [ch]eckups he said, answering his own [rhe]torical question.

He called on the nature healers to [hel]p inform the public of the pitfalls of [ma]ss checkups. Some of his colleagues [ha]d now adopted some of his views. [W]hile they still tended to operate too [qu]ickly, their surgery was now less radi[ca]l than it was.

Dr Issels was also critical of what he [ca]lled the blinkered attitude of his col[lea]gues.

He accused them of refusing to draw their conclusions from the fact that can[ce]r research has been up a blind alley for more than 120 years.

Enormous amounts of money, he said, were pumped into research programmes, mass checkups and cancer centres. He suggested that it would have been better to review our concept of cancer instead.

Dr Issels called on the medical profession to resist the "monopoly claim of some privileged theories."

He contrasted these theories with his own theory that takes the whole person into account: tumours are formed when the entire defence system of the body collapses.

As a result, what is needed is a regenerative therapy directed at the whole person and combined with a therapy targeted on the tumor itself.

Dr Issels said that this approach had enabled him to achieve successes even in late stages of cancer.

But even the nature healers could not warm to the theory put forward by Dr O. Hamer.

In his view, cancer is caused by a severe psychological conflict and the tumour occurs exactly 18 months after the conflict. It can be cured if the patient resolves the conflict within himself.

Dr Dieter Hager, vice president of the newly founded society for biological cancer prevention in Heidelberg, confirmed that the pressure exerted by nature healers had strengthened the position of new biological approaches in the fight against cancer.

He said that his society came into being as a result of the failure of the cancer fund to recognise natural medicine as the fourth pillar of cancer therapy.

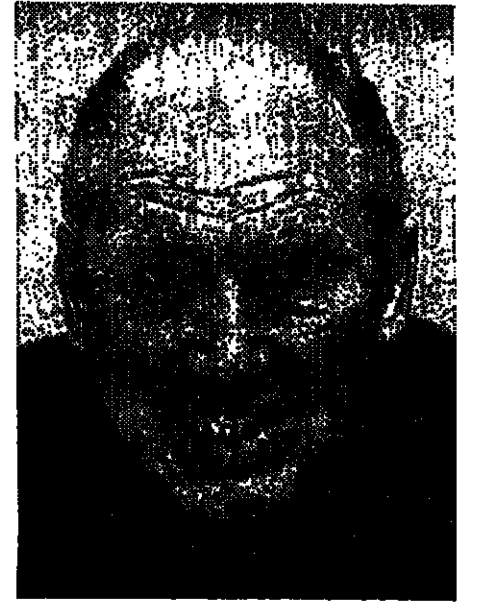
He suggested that the nature healers' concept contained a number of elements that warranted more thorough research and clinical experiments.

What new insights did the congress provide? E.S. Scharnik, the president of the German Nature Healers Association, suggested that the most important result of the meeting was the fact that even critics of natural medicine are now for the first time prepared to enter into a discussion with nature healers.

His remark was primarily directed at Professor Irmgard Oepen who, despite boos from the audience, had the courage to point out that nature healers could be a danger to their patients and that there are no laws governing their training.

She also deplored the fact that the exams for nature healers are mainly aimed at establishing whether the candidate will be a menace to national health and whether he is aware of his limitations.

Professor Oepen blamed this on the lawmakers rather than on the nature



Professor Julius Hackethal ... danger in mass cancer checkups.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

healers themselves. She suggested that a sensible approach to this problem should be feasible.

Following a cooperation agreement between nature healers and conventional medicine, she now considers joint work at least thinkable.

Scharnik expressed his satisfaction at the fact that conventional medicine is now at least prepared to discuss alternative therapies.

One speaker in the discussion round suggested that one way of warding off attacks from the conventional camp was to "provide clear biochemical evidence for our nature therapy approach."

Heidi Parade
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 14 March 1983)

Cancer: doctors stop fighting each other

The German cancer research centre in Heidelberg is to help a GDR scientist develop a method of treating cancer.

Professor Manfred von Ardenne and his team at the Dresden Institute began working on the treatment in 1965 and by the early 1970s were able to begin testing animals.

The agreement between von Ardenne and Heidelberg comes after years of antagonism between the two parties.

It is a gesture of conciliation by Heidelberg over the treatment, which is known as "external regional hyperthermia."

According to a research centre spokesman, the project will also deal with the American hyperthermia method of using microwave antennas.

Professor von Ardenne's equipment for hyperthermia treatment would be placed at the centre's disposal.

He stressed that the project will be headed by the Heidelberg/Mannheim tumour centre, with which Heidelberg has a partnership arrangement.

This would be one step in a multi-step cancer therapy. The other steps towards clinical tests of the therapy concept — could only be carried out in Heidelberg, the spokesman said.

The final decision on the types of tumours to be included and the extent of clinical tests at the Heidelberg/Mannheim centre would only be made after exhaustive basic research.

Professor von Ardenne was born in Hamburg in 1907. He has been a prominent scientist since the 1920s and has played a major role in the fields of electronics, nuclear physics and cancer research.

Von Ardenne's concept is based on the idea of healing cancer with its own weapons.

After only a few years of delving into cancer, he came up with his multi-step therapy in 1965.

The approach is based on a sequence of therapy steps intended to make tumors die a natural death.

The main steps (which includes conventional methods like surgery, radiation and chemotherapy) are:

Step 1: Feeding the cancer cells to get their metabolism going. This is done through a six-hour infusion of dextrose. The healthy cells remain unaffected by it while the tumour cells develop over-acidity due to increased lactic acid.

Step 2: Overheating the tumour cells, which are more sensitive to heat than healthy tissue. The assumption is that this is due to the tumour cells' acid environment. The infusion of dextrose that leads to increased acidity makes the tumour cells even more sensitive to heat, causing them to die at temperatures between 40, and 42,C which leave healthy cells unaffected.

Step 3: Uncoupling the tumour from the rest of the body. Over-acidity and heat contract the blood vessels in the immediate vicinity of the tumour and make the blood corpuscles in the tumour tissue swell. The swollen corpuscles get stuck in the narrowed blood vessels, isolating the tumour from the rest of the body.

Step 4: Self-decomposition of tumours and metastases. Von Ardenne calls this a cytolysis chain reaction. As soon as the first tumour cells have been destroyed by over-acidity and heat, they release enzymes that decompose the dead cells. These cytolysis enzymes also attack neighbouring cells that are only just viable, destroying them as well. This process continues until all tumour cells have decomposed.

The uncoupling of the cancer cells from the rest of the body achieves two things: the disintegration process does not affect neighbouring healthy tissue and the body does not suddenly become flooded by the toxic decomposition products of the dead tumour cells.

Instead, the decomposition takes weeks or months and has no harmful effects.

It took von Ardenne and his research team at the Dresden Institute from 1965 to the early 1970s to develop the multi-step therapy and test it on animals.

Once this was done, the road was clear for clinical experiments with humans.

But medical traditionalists in the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR put objected.

Though tests were carried out in some hospitals, they involved very few patients and these had already been written off medically by the doctors.

The traditionalists' opposition to the multi-step therapy did no harm to the new concept. Von Ardenne used this time to improve and introduce considerable changes in his hyperthermia technology: the original hot bath was replaced by microwave radiation that makes it possible to impart more heat to the immediate tumour environment than to the rest of the body.

It was this that spelled the breakthrough. The Dresden Medical School, backed by the GDR health ministry, began clinical tests early last year. Now the Heidelberg centre is involved.

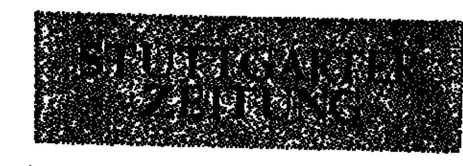
The barriers put up by traditionalists now seem to have been removed.

Dieter Dietrich
(Der Tagesspiegel, 12 March 1983)



■ INNOVATIONS

Burth of a disc halts the death of an industry



The Burth Disc is a device which enables large cinemas to be split into smaller cinemas. It was invented at the end of the 1950s by Willi Burth, now 79, who comes from Ravensburg but now lives in Kressbronn.

The invention means that one projectionist can run several cinemas instead of just one because reels no longer need to be changed.

As a result, expert say cinema attendances have increased by almost 400 per cent, giving the industry a much-needed boost.

You can find old Willi in the labyrinth of his air-raid cellar, assembling his adventurous experimental devices.

He uses absolutely everything, from wooden blocks to beer crates, from bicycle spokes to parts of a model railway.

He's lost count of the many worldwide patents he has to his name, "between 30 and 40" he reckons.

Willi was always keen on presenting and projecting films.

While still a lad he built a model projector and using self-painted slides as title links put on a small film-show for his mates at a few pfennigs a time.

Later on he started repairing projectors and much to the dismay of his father travelled around from one village to the next presenting his films.

He spent the money he earnt while undergoing a textiles apprenticeship on a large projector, and soon he bought his own cinema.

Soon he had the largest cinema in the whole region and today he owns eleven in all — eight in Ravensburg and three in Biberach.

Nevertheless, he sees his cineaste leanings in a self-critical light.

He hasn't seen a film right through for some time now, "five minutes here and then minutes there — that's enough for me", he admits.

The principle behind the Burth Disc is quite simple.

When the films come from the distributors, they arrive in different sections.

In years gone by it was common practice to run the film on seven reels, and show them alternately on two projectors.

The projectionist must keep a keen eye on the exact break in the film and keep changing the reels accordingly.

After the film was over it had to be rewound, which tended to damage the quality of the celluloid.

At most, these copies only survived 1,000 projections.

Burth started sticking the individual sections together and winding them up on a large, horizontal moving disc.

While on this disc, the film is not subject to any mechanical demands.

The distributors reckon that this system means that the film copies last up to forty times longer than normal.

Many's the time projectionists tried to get a full-length film, which easily weighs a hundredweight, to run on the old vertical system.

But anyone who knows his way around mechanics can imagine what kind of strain the film was under.

As Burth points out: "At the top the film had to stand the strain of considerable pressure, whilst the lower part kept hanging down — there was a kind of sandpaper effect".

The latest invention on Burth's long list is a disc which can both wind and rewind, making the process of additional rewinding superfluous.

On registering the patent for his latest discovery Burth found out that the Americans had been working on this problem since 1927.

It took a Swabian to put it into practice.

There is also another reason for the great interest shown by the cinema world in this new invention.

Cinema owners and projectionists are in the middle of new negotiations on pay.

The cutback in personnel which is a probable result of the new discs may well mean that more cinemas can be opened up.

Burth describes the situation: "The owners have to save money. The distributors are already asking for up to half of the takings."

Old Willi is no longer involved in the day-to-day business of running his own cinemas. This is his son's job.

And yet Willi can often be found tearing off the tickets of an evening.

As soon as the film starts being shown, off he goes down into his experimental cellar, "to invent anew".

To see Burth standing underneath the dome of his cinema you wouldn't believe he is over half a century older than most of his regular cinemagoers.

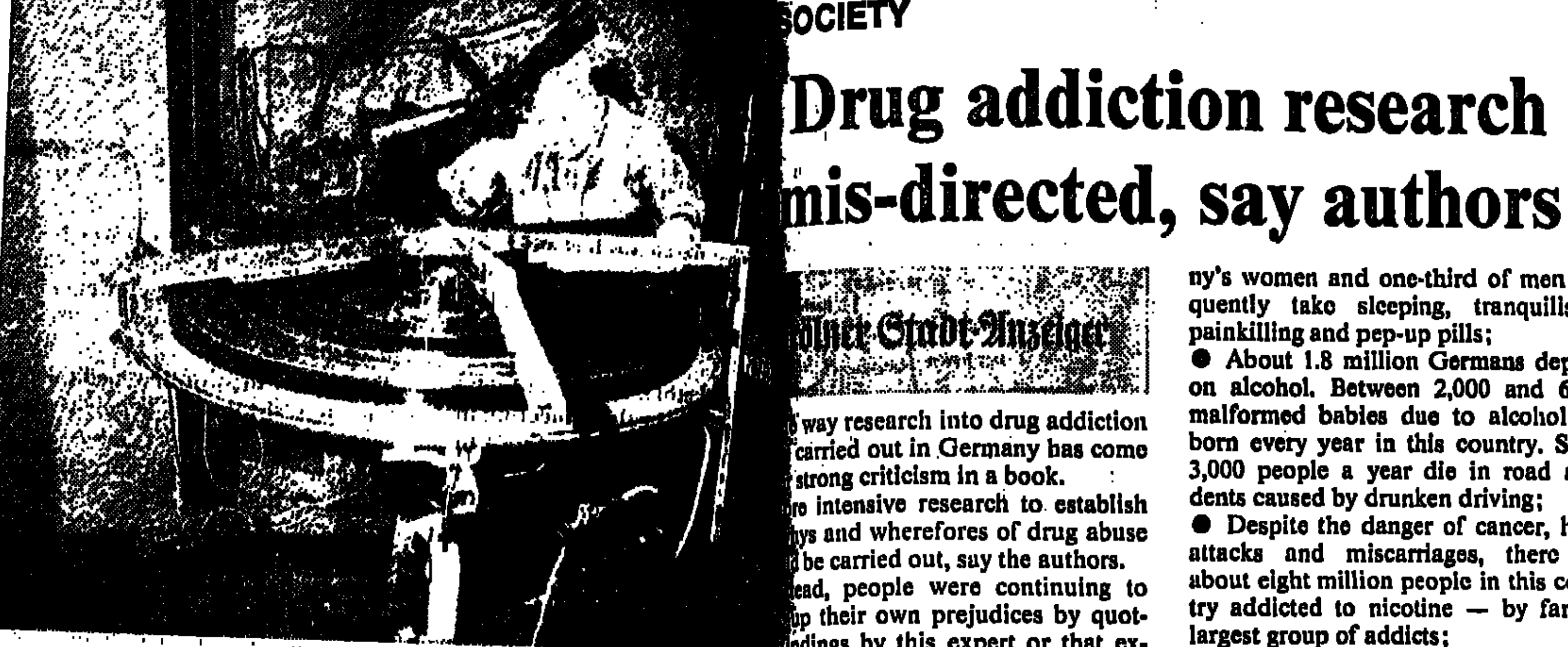
He's handed over some of his honorary posts to his son, who will very soon be presenting a conference paper on the technological possibilities open to the use of computers in cinemas.

The old Swabian gent goes into raptures when he contemplates the vast range of functions such computers could carry out.

"It could control all the other machines, check the focus and brightness and lots more. But that's something others will have to have a go at, I've done my bit".

Nobody will deny that. After all, Burth, who once built the best ampli-

Continued on page 15



Willi Burth with his revolutionary disc. (Photo: Jürgen...)

Pensioners' pedal-plane needs a pilot with lung power

Saarbrücker Zeitung

Four elderly Germans have designed a pedal-powered aircraft. It has neither motor nor sails such as a hang-glider has.

The pilot must pedal. A driveshaft takes the power to the propellar. On its most recent flight it travelled 350 metres in 50 seconds at between 50 and 150 centimetres high.

Although the aircraft could not better its previous record of 700 metres achieved with a tail wind on 4 December, 1982, the hopeful designers classed the event as a "total success".

Press and TV had turned up to see what was "in the air".

The flight showed that this aircraft, weighing just over 50 kilograms, "can be flown and guided properly".

The four designers have been working on "their bird" for eight years now in an attempt to turn man's age-old dream of flying by his own efforts into reality.

Wolfgang Hütter (73), Franz Villinger (75), Wilhelm Schüle (74) and Wilhelm Heselschwerdt (72) were not the kind to spend their lives as pensioners sitting on a garden bench feeding the birds.

They headed straight for the drawing-board, where they worked on the... te details of would-be aircraft.

It has taken them 15,000 hou... workshop to get this far, to tu... and carbon fibres and resin into... object.

The man inside the aircraft d... hard peddling was 23 year-old Oskar Staudenmayer, who ... builds model aeroplanes, is a... pilot and a keen cyclist.

To qualify as a pilot for this enterprise, Staudenmayer had t... lightweight and at the same ti... sufficent stamina to keep the... moving.

"....and fly it shall!". This... accompanied the many years o... put into this project, which ha... with many setbacks along the wa...

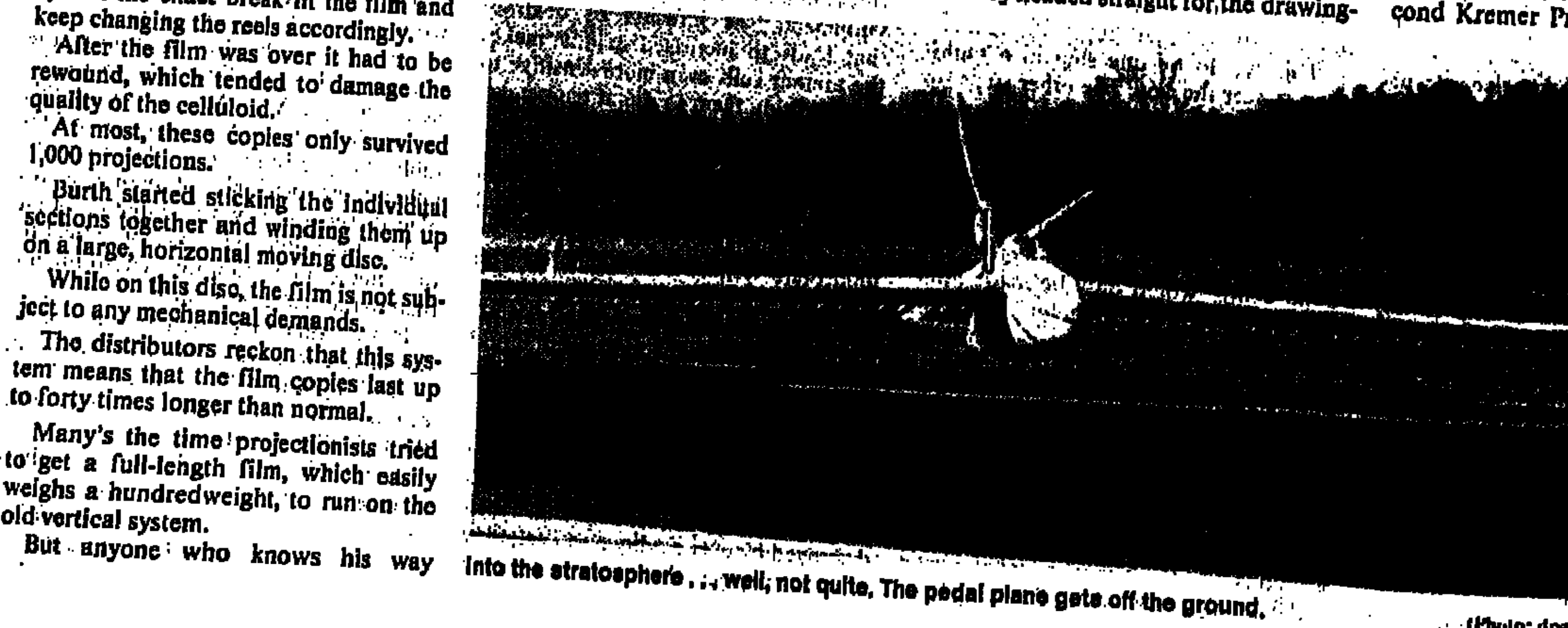
Another incentive for the op... designers was the possiblity of w... the third Kremer Prize amou... 10,000 pounds sterling.

This prize money — put up... English industrialist Henry Kr... is to be awarded to the first no... can aircraft design which, wit... American pilot on board, cove... ing distance of one mile and de... gure eight.

The first Kremer Prize for a o... run was presented to an Am... team.

A second American team wo... cond Kremer Prize for crossing t... glish Chann... wever, these... teams were... heavily" back... industry, "a... is the kind o... port we're... ing", say the... fuls from G... gen. The Ge... designing tea... kon they ... stand a good... ce of winni... Prize if they... ed such fi... backing, sinc... aircraft can b... under pilot co...

(Saarbrücker Z... 14 Marc...)



Into the stratosphere . . . well, not quite. The pedal plane gets off the ground. (Photo: dpa)

SOCIETY

Drug addiction research mis-directed, say authors

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

...way research into drug addiction carried out in Germany has come ...strong criticism in a book.

...re intensive research to establish ...hys and wherefores of drug abuse ...be carried out, say the authors. ...ead, people were continuing to ...up their own prejudices by quot... ...findings by this expert or that ex...

...e current approach meant that ...were expensive programmes ...h resulted in conflicting laws. ...here was deterrent action here, ex...ations there, drug-trading on the ...hand, and punishment on the other. ...Volker Faust, a medical doctor, and ...authors Hans-Werner Carlhoff and ...us D. Schneider, say even the most ...ouous of everyday medicines can ...addictive.

Drogengefahr — Früherkennung, ...schwirkung, Folgen, or Drug Ha..., Early Symptoms, Intoxicating Ef..., Consequences, published by Hip...rates Verlag, Stuttgart, DM 19.80).

...ow harmless in the cough syrup ...in the medicine chest? And what ...t the sleeping pills?

...Cough mixtures containing codeine ...the sleeping drug Metaqualon — a ...roduct of the search for an anti-ma... ...drug — are addictive.

...nd then there are the often prescrib... ...tranquillisers Librium, Librax, Ver...al and Valium. It is not rare for ...olchildren to be addicted to these ...today.

...e painkillers Codipront and Dolo... ...have an effect similar to that of ...phine.

...e authors have deliberately taken ...risk of calling addictive drugs by ...and describing their effects and ...equences.

...eir argue that they are not disclos... ...he names of drugs that are not al...y in wide use by addicts and that ...sing their names could help ...nts, teachers and doctors recognise ...e and addiction in time.

...e authors point out that:

...Addiction to medical drugs is ...ding. More than half of Germany's women and one-third of men frequently take sleeping, tranquilising, painkilling and pep-up pills;

● About 1.8 million Germans depend on alcohol. Between 2,000 and 6,000 malformed babies due to alcohol are born every year in this country. Some 3,000 people a year die in road accidents caused by drunken driving;

● Despite the danger of cancer, heart attacks and miscarriages, there are about eight million people in this country addicted to nicotine — by far the largest group of addicts;

● Increased police work have not stemmed the use of hashish, marijuana, cocaine and heroin.

Addiction threatens even from the most unexpected quarters, the study shows.

"But the public is now taking addiction as much for granted as traffic accidents."

There were two public schools of thought: those who want more stringent action against hashish, marijuana, cocaine and heroin (the first two are called, threshold drugs because they can lead to the use of hard narcotics); and those that wants to legalise hashish in a move to decriminalise its users.

The discussion over the "threshold drugs" is still in full swing. The authorities mostly speak of hashish and marijuana as paving the way for hard drugs. The authors, on the other hand, say that "there is much to indicate that the biggest culprit in addiction is not one of the illegal narcotics but nicotine, which also makes the user psychogically and physically dependent."

Research has come up with many reasons for addiction, among them curiosity, a desire to experiment, fear of loneliness and escape from everyday problems.

But none of these research findings lead anywhere. There are as many combinations of reasons as there are drug victims. "After all, every one of these unfortunates has his own problems."

This does not mean that they cannot be helped. Only ten years ago, the addicts' position was desperate for both them and their next-of-kin. Today, even medium-sized towns have their counselling services.

But one thing has remained unchanged: treatment can only be successful if the patient cooperates and experts realise now that parents must be included in the therapy.

But "how convincing are adults who attack drug addiction while being addicted themselves? Take the father who drinks alcohol in front of the children and the mother who takes addictive medication. How can they blame their son for smoking hashish?" the authors say.

But what is to be done now that experts are agreed that even a harmonious family life provides no protection from addiction?

Michael Rupprecht

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 16 March 1983)

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fiers for the newly developed "talkies", was the first person to achieve automatically guided projection.

In 1954 he constructed a mechanical-automatic control device from parts of a building set, which he now proudly presents among his private collection of film projectors.

Of course, do-it-yourself specialists don't restrict their activities to just one field.

The garage doors in Burth's house have been remote-controlled for over twenty years. The same goes for a swimming-pool cover and a roof over the veranda, which is operated by the invisible hand as soon as rain and wind threaten.

He's a man of principle, and just as he refuses to show porno films in his cinemas he did not see why should pay a special rate to the "Kreßborn locals" for using the water.

As he found their demands rather excessive when he first built his house, Burth in no time constructed two cisterns to collect the rainwater.

The water from above is filtered twice and then pumped into the water pipes.

Burth uses rainwater for cooking and washing.

It doesn't look as if he's having any trouble with acid rain — Burth's the kind of man who could get a whole old people's home going.

On 29 March, Germany's third TV channel will be presenting a programme by Jürgen Bretzinger, also a *Ravensburger*, dealing with Burth's life story.

Jürgen Adamek

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 21 March 1983)

Industrial robots

Continued from page 9

the IG-Metall is going to have to "state it's case more clearly in future".

During future negotiations, the unions will proceed according to the motto "We only agree if . . ."

The new stance to be adopted by the unions will be clearly articulated during the annual meeting of the German Trade Unions in Munich in October.

"We want to back up our shop stewards in this respect", Feith emphasises. "Without turning into modern-day Luddites".

Schraft, on the other hand, is not so pessimistic as the unions when it comes to future developments in the field of industrial automation.

"I sincerely believe that the development of robots has up to now created more jobs than it has destroyed."

The labour effect are very difficult to calculate since the alternative is usually not so much human labour versus machines but rigid automation versus the more flexible kind: "In the case of automatic arc welding for example, a machine can at most replace two welders."

Schraft's forecasts for the development of robots are also more restrained. He sees an increase in the spot welding sector over the next one or two years and then a levelling-off of the increase rate of robot use.

As soon as the investments boom in the car industry has died down, the demand for robots will also fall.

Other industries, such as the electrical appliances industries and mechanical engineering, can only use robots for individual operations.

Schraft's forecast: 5,000 robots in the Federal Republic by 1985, the number rising to 10,000 by 1990, "but this really is a guestimate".

Head of production at Daimler-Benz, Niefer, finds it easier to talk about concrete facts and figures: "During the coming years we shall be increasing our stock of robots by 100 to 200."

At present, there is no single robot in use on the assembly line in the Daimler-Benz plant: "The machines just aren't clever enough yet", says Niefer, but adds, "We'll be thinking about using them later".

By referring to other figures, Niefer tries to put things into perspective: "Mercedes has 300 robots, 30,000 tool machines and almost 150,000 workers.

"We always come up against limits", he states, "there certainly won't be factories without people until this century is out. We simply need man to operate the machine".

Felix Spies

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 March 1983)